

PC Update

April 1997

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REVIEWS

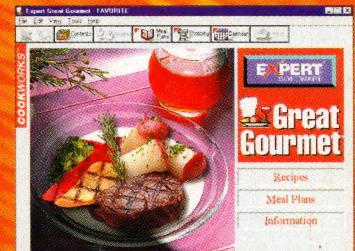
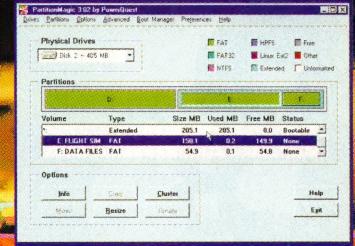
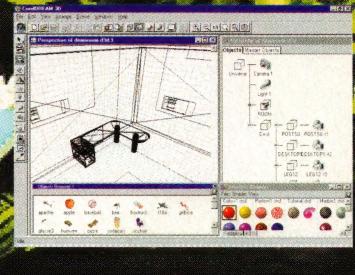
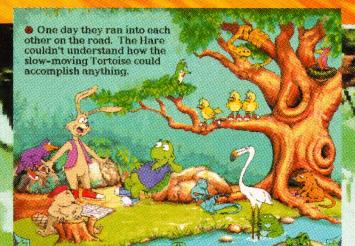
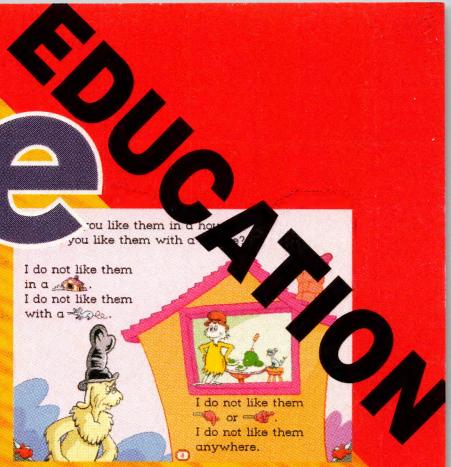
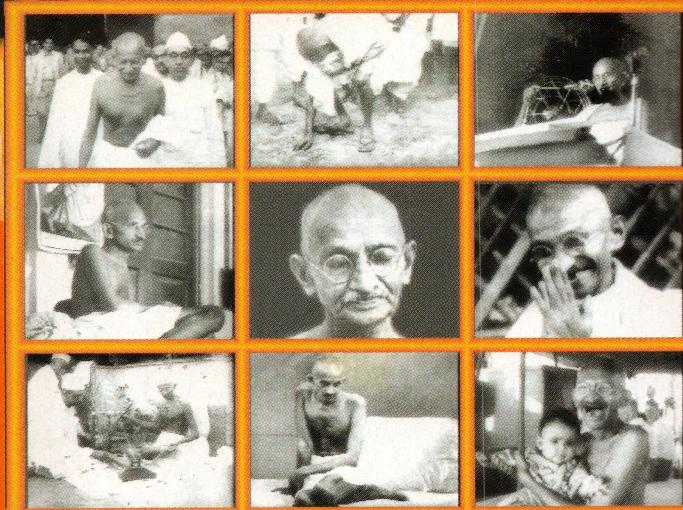
Green Eggs and Ham

Helicop Investigates Words and Numbers

The Tortoise and the Hare

Gandhi: Apostle of Peace and Non-violence

Great Gourmet



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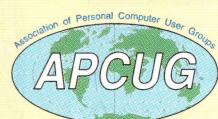
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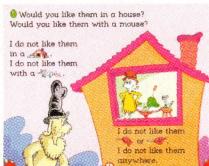
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Dr Suess is on CD,
Just the thing for kids like me.
Bernie likes *Green Eggs and Ham*,
But does she know how-old-I-am?

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**48 For the bookshelf**

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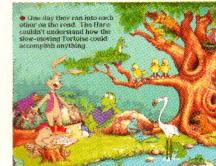
Audio, video, maps, original documents and more. G. Singh is impressed by this CD-ROM about one of the world's great men.

**52 PartitionMagic 3.02**

Stan Johnstone gets his hands dirty, but keeps his cool, with a job that used to be a nightmare.

56 Great Gourmet

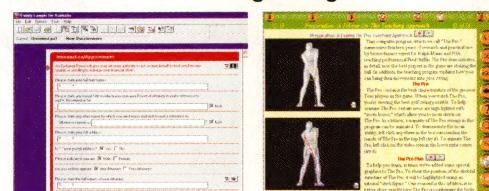
Looks good and tastes even better. Next time *Bob Burt*'s at the stove he should be worth a visit.

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**60 Asymetrix Toolbook II Instructor 5.0**

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May	Publishing (DTP, WWW, CD-ROM, WinHelp, Graphics)	7 April	9 April	11 April	2 May
June	Information Management (Database, PIMs, Spreadsheets)	5 May	7 May	9 May	30 May
July	SOHO	2 Jun	4 Jun	6 Jun	27 Jun
August	Operating Systems (Windows NT, 95, 3.x, DOS, OS/2, UNIX)	7 Jul	9 Jul	11 Jul	1 Aug

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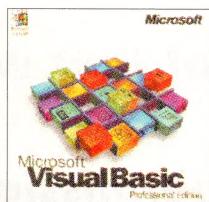
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William B. Austin has some ideas on how to help your friends...and your club.



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Melb PC directory

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Graphics. Please supply graphics or screen shots, wherever possible, as colour, or black and white images, saved in one of the formats: PCX, BMP, TIF, WMF or EPS. Upload articles via modem as a file, making sure you are in the PCUP file area of the BBS, and leave a message (not "Private") in the PC Update Discussion area. Only use the Internet for sending articles by prior arrangement with the recipient. Alternatively, send articles on any convenient virus-free diskette, which will not be returned, in ASCII format (unless unavoidable) with no formatting whatsoever to the Group's PO Box.

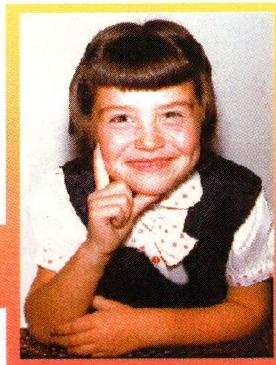
Viruses. Articles on virus-infected diskettes will be totally ignored!

Rejections. Please contact the Editor if your submission is not published within four issues. Rejections are always advised by telephone or in writing.

Editorial

WORKING WRITER'S WORDS

Carol Daniels



When I first joined the *PC Update* team I barely knew Ash Nallawalla and Peter Smith. I knew their work, *PC Update* was already a valued part of my Melb PC membership. The intensity of putting out a monthly magazine meant that we couldn't stay strangers for long. We're all friends now (of course Ash and Peter had already known each other for quite some time) and we have a good time working together. So I'm sorry to report that due to other commitments Ash has reluctantly resigned as Managing Editor of *PC Update*.

He is, I'm happy to report, remaining part of the *PC Update* team, as Reviews Editor. So we will continue to benefit from his dedication and expertise.

Ash has been a fantastic Managing Editor, and before that Editor. For me, he's also been a mentor. It would have been impossible for me to take on the editorship without Ash's guidance. He, quite wisely, introduced me to the demands of the role in steps, in order to prevent me from running, with my hands thrown up in to the air, screaming, "I give up, there's too much too do!" He gave me good advice when I asked for it and respected my abilities and judgement.

Every member of Melb PC benefits from the long hours and hard work Ash puts into *PC Update* (and virtually every other aspect of the group's operation). I want to take this opportunity to thank him publicly for the help he has given me.

I'll still be working with Ash, on *PC Update* and as a member of the APCUG Board of User Group Advisors or as it is more commonly called, the BoDA*. Ash has been active in APCUG for many years. He has served on the BoDA himself and he is currently serving on the APCUG

Board of Directors, as Vice-President. I have recently been selected to fill a vacancy in the BoDA, and not surprisingly I've been assigned to work with Jerry Stevens of the Personal Computer Club of Toronto in Region 8 (that's all of the world that's not the USA).

Melb PC is well represented in APCUG activities, our own Richard Solly is a member of the APCUG Internet Subcommittee and (along with Ash) an APCUG System Administrator. Richard has also been instrumental in the setup of APCUG's new Wildcat BBS. I've been using it for APCUG business and *PC Update* work too. It's easy to use and very versatile. I can hardly wait for our own BBS to make the switch to Wildcat later this year.

Magazine delivery (or not)

Last month Stan wrote in his CPU about late (and sometimes non) delivery of *PC Update*. Although the *PC Update* team cares if you don't get your magazine—or you don't get it on time—we can't do anything about it. But the Melb PC office can! If you don't receive your copy by the Friday prior to the monthly meeting (which is always on the first Wednesday of the month) do call the office (03) 9699 6222. They will arrange to have a copy sent to you immediately. If you post a message on the BBS in *PC Update Discussion* or on the Internet, in *melbpc.pcupdate*, it will get you sympathy, but it won't get you your copy of the magazine.

Tips and tricks

Another thing Stan wrote about in his CPU column last month was how much our members appreciate tips and tricks. George Skarbek was first out of the blocks, you can read George's tips this month. Will you be next? Everyone has some little trick that makes computing easier, faster or more fun. Have you streamlined a tedious task with a macro or found a hidden shortcut to a useful function? If so, share your knowledge with your fellow members.

Submissions

Yes, it's my regular reminder that we need submissions for *PC Update*. Upload your submissions (plain ASCII text only,

* The primary mission of the BoDA is to actively communicate with member user groups of APCUG and define activities to assist them in better serving their members' interests. It also determines courses of action for the Association that are to be carried out by the Directors and defines programs to assist the User Groups in better serving their membership needs.

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no Word or WordPerfect files please) to the BBS (file area *PCUP*). Check upcoming themes in the front of each issue and download the style guidelines from the BBS before you start writing. All reviews are commissioned by the Reviews Editor, Ash Nallawalla, and all review material is sourced by him.

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April meeting

This month our special guest will be Gene Barlow of PowerQuest. Gene is a fantastic presenter and PartitionMagic (reviewed in this issue by Stan Johnstone) makes tasks—once only attempted only by the brave or foolhardy with heaps of time to spare—amazingly simple and trouble free...as if by magic!

Following the great success of our February meeting, where members turned out in record numbers to purchase CyberMedia's First Aid Deluxe (at a very attractive price) the committee has decided to look for similar opportunities.

That's another reason to make sure you make it to the April meeting. A little birdie told me that PartitionMagic will be available for members to purchase on the night (at a very attractive price). □

Green Eggs and Ham

CHILDREN'S SOFTWARE

Bernadette Houghton



"Do you like green eggs and ham?"

*"I do not like them, Sam-I-am.
I do not like green eggs and ham."*

So goes the entertaining tale of the enterprising Sam-I-am as he entices his grouchy friend to taste a new delicacy. A childhood favourite of my own and now a firm favourite with my young ones, Dr

Info Box

Green Eggs and Ham

Minimum system requirements

- 486SX processor
- 8 MB RAM
- Windows 3.1, DOS 3.3
- SVGA display with 256 colours
- Sound card
- Mouse
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive

Availability and cost

Available from most major game and educational software stockists, including Myer, David Jones and Harvey Norman.

Street price is around \$60.

Suess' wacky Green Eggs and Ham has made a lively transition into multimedia. In its new form, it's bright and cheerful, the music is catchy and the characters look exactly like they do in the pages of the book. The latest release captures the spirit of Dr Suess' wonderfully whimsical world perfectly.

Aimed at three- to seven-year-olds, Green Eggs and Ham heralds another generation of Living Books interactive stories. As with earlier releases, clickable hotspots hide fun animations, but Green Eggs and Ham has a much higher level of animation—and demands more processing power. The child can have the story narrated non-stop, or page by page. As the story narrates, the words highlight and—another new element—key words change into cute animated pictures depicting the word. There are also three hidden activities, involving matching objects and colours, and making rhymes.

Do I even need to say that my young ones love Green Eggs and Ham? It's a lively, colourful and delightful—and educational—program that is sure to become a favourite with your kids. I'm finding it difficult to find enough superlatives to describe Green Eggs and Ham. Just trust me, your kids will love it! □

difficult to

find enough

superlatives

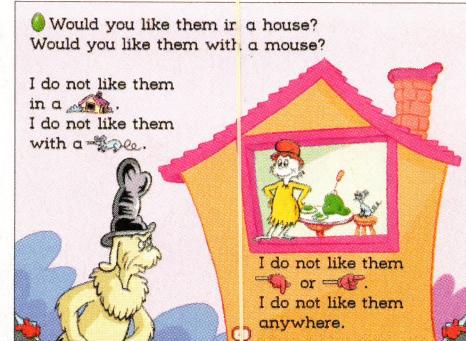
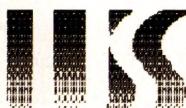


Figure 1. Green eggs and ham.



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Helicop Investigates Words and Numbers

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

Bernadette Houghton



Helicop Investigates Words and Numbers is an educational program in the guise of an arcade game. Not only do you confront the nastiest of evil beings, you collect letters and numbers and arrange them in the correct order.

As Helicop, you shoot enemies and amass weapons, extra lives and so on. When shot, some enemies leave behind letters and numbers which you form into words or sums. Depending on the type of game you have chosen, you are presented with a word or number goal at the start of each level, or you create your own word or sum from the characters you collect. Be aware, however,

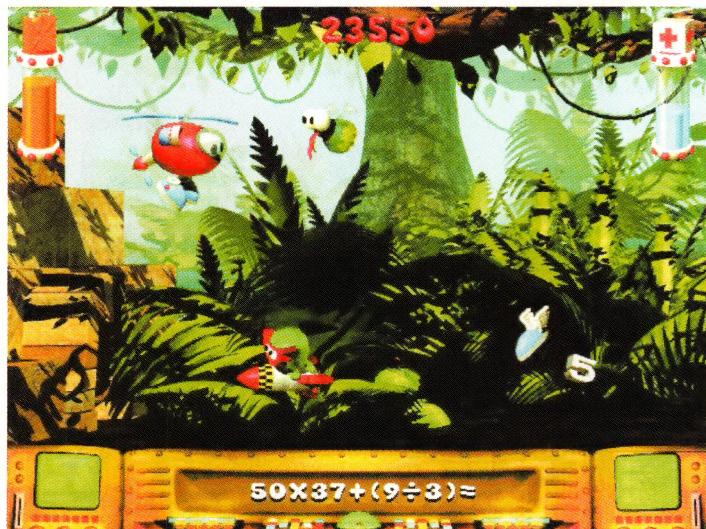
that words are spellchecked and sums must have a solution, so you can't cheat.

You can discard unwanted letters or numbers, but can have only two discards on each screen. Of course you can shoot anything you don't want, but there isn't always time if you are evading an enemy. So strategy is very important. Also, because Helicop needs time to recover between shots, you must aim carefully and time shots well.

Helicop has only five levels and a fairly small playing area. The graphics are not particularly flash, nor is there a great variety of nasties and collectibles. However, you can extend the playability of the game by choosing the more

challenging playing options and creating your own word lists. It runs quite slowly on my 486DX2-66, so if you want a fast game play it on a Pentium.

The game is targeted at "kindy to teen," but I suggest 7- or 8-years-old to teen as more appropriate. I don't recommend it for its arcade value, but it can be quite challenging to create words and sums, especially at the harder levels. □



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**it can be quite
challenging...
especially at the
harder levels**

Info Box

Helicop Investigates Words and Numbers

Minimum system requirements

- IBM-compatible 486DX2-66 processor (Pentium recommended)
- 8 MB RAM (16 MB recommended)
- SVGA graphics
- CD-ROM drive
- 1 MB free hard disk space

Availability and cost

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intel inside
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WHY YOU NEED A UPS

There are two unfortunate realities of the electronics age; the power utility simply cannot provide consistently clean power, demanded by sensitive electronics, and the user is ultimately responsible for the well-being and safety of his equipment.

A study by IBM has shown that a typical computer is subject to more than 120 power problems per month. The effects of power problems range from the subtle—keyboard lockups, hardware degradation—to the dramatic—complete data loss or burnt motherboards.

Clearly, computer users are becoming more and more reliant on a supply of clean power. Despite advances in the capabilities of modern PCs, a momentary power outage is all it takes to lose your data.

More dangerous is the loss of previously written files, or even an entire hard disk, which can occur should a power problem strike while your system is saving a file. Network file servers constantly writing to disk are particularly susceptible. The question is, how much does it cost to get your data back?

It is safe to say that this will cost more than the initial investment in a UPS with monitoring software.

It's been said that there are two types of computer users: those who have lost data because of a power problem, and those who are going to. There is now a new class—those who have recognised the need for protection and taken steps to ensure that they're prepared.

The offer

Melb PC has four models for you to choose from. If you are on the Web, we suggest you visit <http://www.apc.com/english/prods/works/bkpro/index.htm> where you will find fuller details of the US versions of the product range.

Try the "Size-UPS" feature, which will give you an idea of the rating of UPS best suited to your configuration.

The UPSs include *PowerChute Pro* software to save and close applications in an orderly manner under Windows 95, as well as automatic voltage regulation to protect against brownouts and over-voltage. □

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BP650i PNP	\$635	\$540	Pentiums, Heavily configured systems, CAD, etc workstations	650/410	19/5	from 11kg to 25 kg
SU700i NET	\$995	\$830		700/450	13/5	
SU1000i NET	\$1495	\$1230	Multiple systems or longer run-time applications, Network servers	1000/670	14/6	

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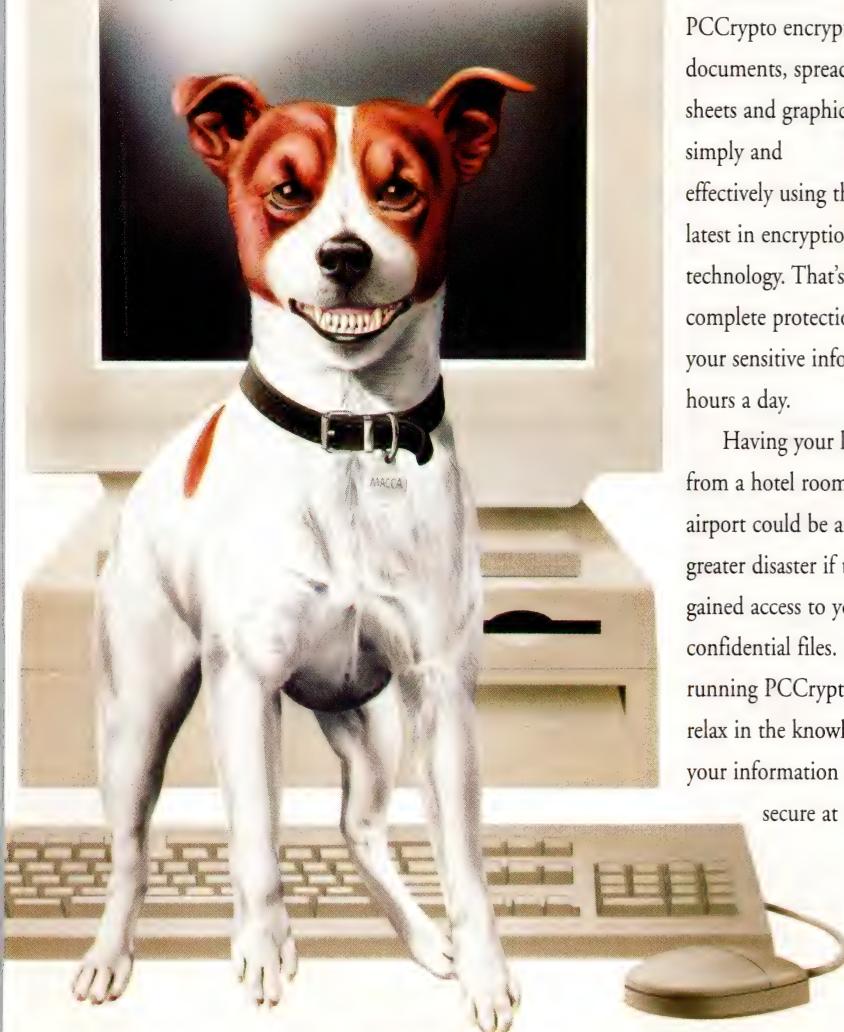
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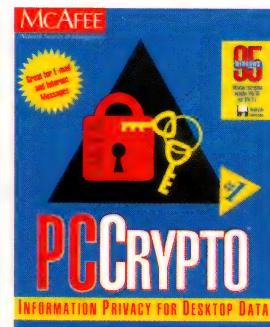
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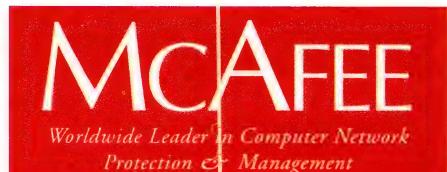
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SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton

CorelCAD is a 3D solid modelling program compatible with the industry-standard ACIS solid modelling system. You can design, create and edit complex 3D models and prototypes, and render the final design with realistic material textures, lighting effects and shadows.

Info Box

CorelCAD

Minimum system requirements

- 486DX-33 processor (Pentium recommended)
- 16 MB RAM (32 MB recommended)
- Windows 95 or Windows NT
- VGA monitor (800 x 600 recommended)
- CD-ROM drive with 32-bit driver
- Mouse or drawing tablet
- 41 MB free hard disk space required for minimum installation, 108 MB for typical installation.

Availability and Cost

Available from most Corel retailers. Contact Corel Customer Service Centre on 1800 658 850.

RRP \$1099

As with most computer-aided design programs, you build intricate models by manipulating simple shapes into more complex objects.

CorelCAD comes with an extensive collection of symbols, sample models, fonts and assorted graphics. Utility programs include Corel DREAM 3D 6 and Corel Print Space that bolster up CorelCAD's weak spots, while Corel MULTIMEDIA MANAGER and Corel SCRIPT provide graphical file management and programming capabilities respectively.

CorelCAD: the main program

The CorelCAD interface follows familiar Corel conventions, with toolbar flyouts and roll-ups. You can customise the keyboard, toolbars and menus to suit yourself, and create different sets of keyboard assignments for different types of operations. A real joy is single character keyboard shortcuts that allow you to perform operations without missing a beat.

Drawings are limited in size to 100 million units wide, 100 million units deep and 100 million units high, where unit refers to the smallest unit of precision you have set. For example, if you are working in millimetres and have set the level of precision to two decimal places, you can draw objects as large as one million millimetres and as small as 0.01 mm.

You can work in metric and imperial units in the same drawing and to a precision of up to 9 decimal points of your chosen unit of measurement.

You draw objects by selecting a tool then specifying the coordinates in real-world units using either a Cartesian (xyz), polar or spherical coordinate system. Three-dimensional drawings are created from scratch with the 3D or surface tools, or by extruding 2D models along defined circular or linear paths. CorelCAD also exports drawings in DWG, DXF, SAT (ACIS solid modelling format), WMF and several bitmap formats, and imports in DWG, DXF, WMF, SAT and HPGL.

Beyond the standard line, rectangle, circle and polygon shapes, there is a range of Bezier, surface and 3D tools. Text can be 2D, 3D or leader, and although you use a separate text editing box, there is a spellchecker and you can place text at an angle. Dimensions update dynamically and there are unlimited layers, with layers organised into groups if you choose. CorelCAD automatically calculates engineering properties of objects, including volume, centre-of-gravity and surface area.

Object manipulation functions include rotation, mirror, scale and stretch. You can quickly create copies of objects using any of several copy commands, including Array, which arranges copies

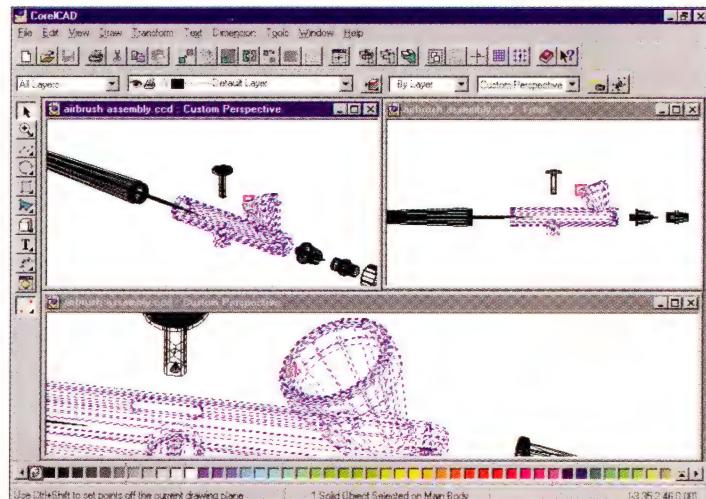


Figure 1. CorelCAD's main screen. Note that the snap point is visible in all views of the selected object.

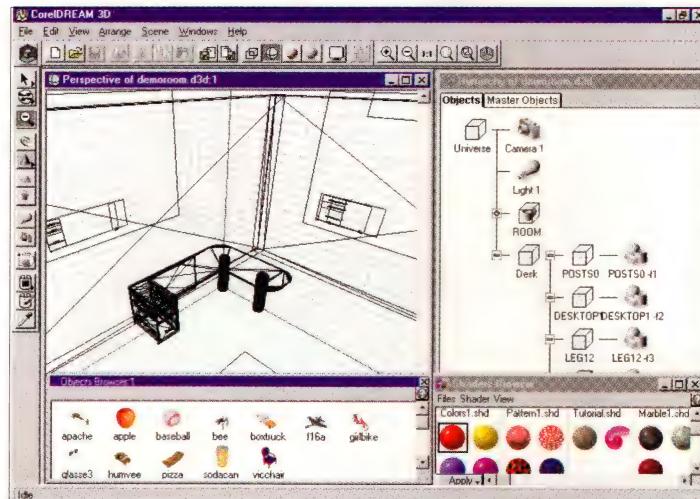


Figure 2. Corel DREAM 3D's default screen setup.

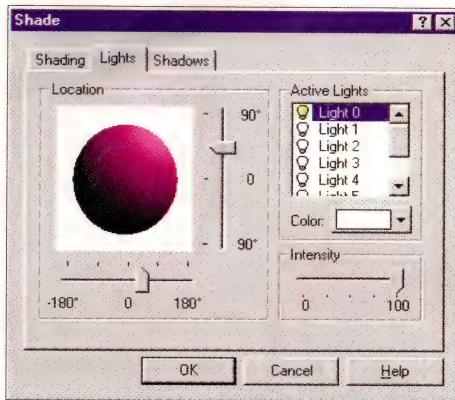


Figure 3. CorelCAD's rendering dialog, Lights tab.

into special patterns. There are tools for trimming, extending or slicing objects, filleting or chamfering lines and combining objects with Boolean statements. You can nudge objects using 2 predefined nudge sizes, which can be as large or as small as you like. There are eleven snap tools, and you can keep selected snaps continuously active, making it much easier to select points. You can also place point markers anywhere on a drawing for use as snap points.

CorelCAD supports the Multiple Document Interface (MDI), so you can open several files simultaneously, including multiple views of a drawing from various angles. There is the usual zoom tool, as well as a pan tool that, awkwardly, requires you to first specify panning distance and direction. A feature I definitely appreciated is the ability to preview files before opening; on my 486DX2-66 with 20 MB of RAM, large files took ages to display. You can create and save views and window layouts, with several preset window layouts available. CorelCAD has limited print capabilities, allowing the printing of only the image bounded by the active drawing window; however, Print Space provides much greater flexibility.

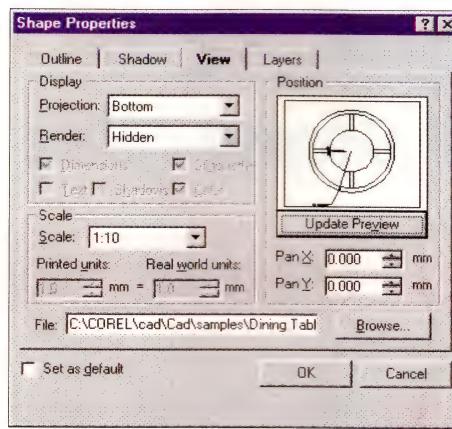


Figure 4. Print Space's rendering dialog.

The default drawing display is wireframe, but you can quickly obtain a more realistic view of your drawing by hiding hidden lines, text and dimensions, and displaying interiors as silhouettes. Shading options include colours, textures, lighting effects, shadowing and various rendering qualities from flat shading to ray-traced full render. These features, while quite comprehensive, are inadequate for high quality publishing, but you can achieve more professional output by refining drawings in DREAM. Depending upon the configuration of your machine, shading may take a while to apply; I had to be very circumspect here since my 486DX2-66 is too slow for satisfactory performance in this respect.

Corel DREAM 3D 6

Corel DREAM 3D is a stand-alone 3D illustration program with lighting, rendering and colour calibration support far beyond CorelCAD's offerings. You create designs from scratch or import them in DXF format (as with CorelCAD models). Once imported, you place your models in a scene then light and shade and render them. You can also add ambient lighting and set your scene into a production frame. DREAM supports third-



Figure 5. A fully rendered DREAM 3D drawing.

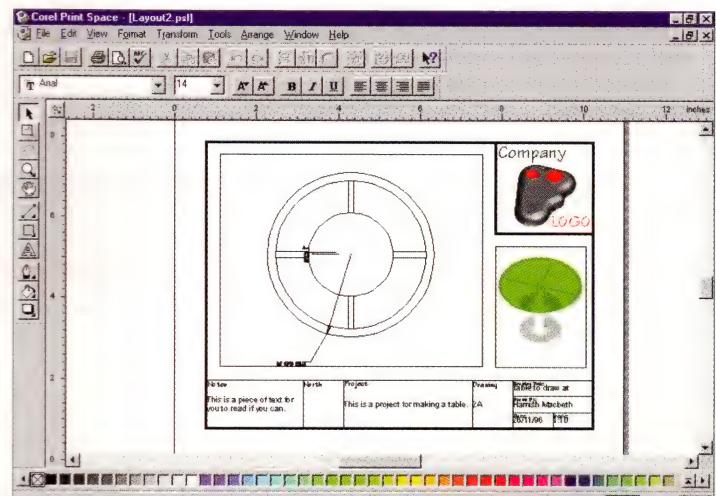


Figure 6. Corel Print Space main layout screen.

if you need a

3D program, the

CorelCAD suite

has a great deal

of functionality

party add-ons and does its rendering in the background, so you can continue drawing without waiting for an operation to finish.

Corel Print Space

If you need printed output beyond the basic capabilities of CorelCAD, you can create customised layouts with Corel Print Space and send them to any Windows supported printer or plotter. Print Space is a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) printing program that lets you output multiple drawings or multiple views of the same drawing on a

single page. You use the text and drawing tools to establish the framework for your output, then link your CorelCAD models to frames. Print Space controls each frame independently, with different scaling, viewpoints and rendering as you choose. According to Print Space's online help, you can also perform various colour functions, such as choosing alternative colour palettes and mixing colours. However, despite extensive searching and experimentation, I could not locate these functions and was able to do little more than change the fill and outline colours.

Assessment

The CorelCAD package is very full-featured and although most of the tools are quite straightforward to use, it takes some time to explore all the capabilities of the package. The User Manual includes tutorials for CorelCAD and DREAM that get you off to a good start, however. DREAM also has a handy Modeling Wizard that guides you through the process of creating 3D objects. The online help for each program could do with some improvement. Basically, you need to know how a feature works to know where to find its online help—and if you know how it works, you certainly don't need online help! Of course, that's an exaggeration, but I found it frustratingly true at times.

The 3D toolbar icons in DREAM are difficult to identify on sight, and CorelCAD's navigation tools are not as flexible as I'd like. The inability to scroll the screen is a nuisance, for example, and the pan tool is quite awkward. CorelCAD, DREAM and Print Space all require plenty of processing power, but DREAM's background processing capabilities are an advantage; it would be great if the other programs had this capability too. If your machine is a little lacking in power, you can use speedier displays until your final design stage—but do be prepared for lots of waiting even so.

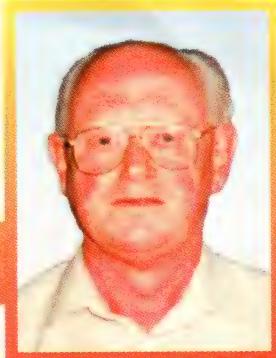
CorelCAD is a powerful program with a couple of major weaknesses propped up by Print Space and DREAM. Although it handles both 2D and 3D drafting, it is first and foremost a 3D program. If you only need 2D capabilities, there are many easier, cheaper and more suitable packages around. If you need a 3D program, the CorelCAD suite has a great deal of functionality and power with an extensive toolset.

CorelCAD really stretched my 486DX2-66 with 20 MB RAM to its limit, even with small drawings of moderate complexity. Rendering and shading took so long that I strongly suggest you accept Corel's recommendation of a Pentium with 32 MB RAM as the minimum for acceptable performance.

Walnut Creek Bethany Bible

CD-ROM REVIEW

Bob Burt



The Bethany Bible CD-ROM contains more than 1200 items of Bible-related shareware as programs, text files and images. It includes viewers for scanning the material from either DOS or Windows and adds a set of HTML files so that you can use a Web browser as the viewing medium.

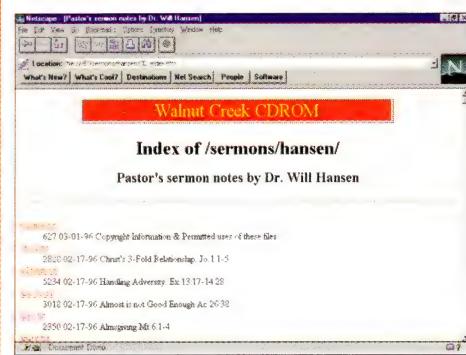
You can use its *Setup* program, which quickly installs the DOS and Windows viewers and also adds icons to install or view the Walnut Creek catalogue or even to uninstall the whole bunch. With Win 95, your system will automatically start WinView as soon as you place the disc in your CD-ROM drive, giving you quite acceptable control of the available material.

The collection includes another 14 Bible search programs, such as *SwordSearcher*, *Bible Ease*, *WinBible* and the rather pretentiously-named *God's Word for Windows*.

The great strength of this offering lies in the range of translations and reference books available on this one disc. Among the many translations, some very familiar, others quite new to me, appears

- The King James Version (Authorised Version)
- The Darby Bible literal translation (1890 OT and 1884 NT)
- The Webster Bible (1833)
- Young's Literal Bible translation (1898)
- Weymouth New Testament in Modern Speech (1913)
- Nave's Topical Bible
- The Latin Vulgate Bible (Jerome's translation, 405 A.D.)

Additionally, there is a copy of the Deuterocanonical Books of the Bible



Using a Web browser to track the contents.

(The Apocrypha), a complete Greek New Testament and the Original Preface included in the 1611 King James Bible.

Other reference material includes

- Fox's Book of Martyrs (a classic Christian book)
- Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Bible
- Easton's Bible Dictionary (1897)
- Bible proper names dictionary
- Morning and Evening: Spurgeon's Daily Bible Readings
- New Torrey's Topical Textbook

This rich gathering of Biblical material, is further augmented by a range of study tools and study programs.

The study tools include daily bible reading plans, dictionaries, charts and maps. There are a number of good Bible overviews, some in Windows Help format. Included are many study programs with specialised topics, such as the *Ark of the Covenant*, the *Tower of Babel*, the *Basics of Christianity* and the *Life of Jesus*. One program alone contains over 366 outlines in 33 Bible studies, which can be selectively printed or saved to a file.

Two sets of sermon notes are included, giving a total of 589 topics. There is also a sermon tracking program and a sermon database to store, retrieve and print sermons, which also has extensive search options.

There is a substantial section devoted to Bible games and many of these are well designed and far from frivolous. There are adventures in the Old Testament in interactive story format and in graphical arcade style and several Bible word games. There is also a program that describes group games to play in a church setting. This leads me to mention that there is a modest but important section on church-related material. Included is a church management program that provides attendance, contribution and visit tracking, a similarly-targeted Church Membership Tracking System and a Church Choral Music Library program that could well be of more general interest.

Conclusion

This is indeed a rich gathering of Biblical material, certain to be of great interest to all students of the Bible.

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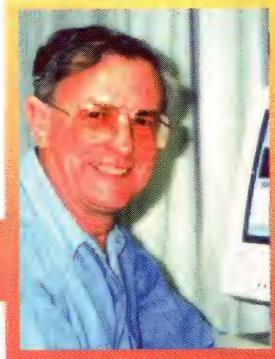
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CLUB PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Stan Johnstone



February was a very busy month, and it is hard to try and keep you right up to date for this April issue when I am writing this in the first week of March. Many of the items I mentioned previously for March are still to happen, and here I am talking about April. No wonder I never seem to know what day it is!

PC Update

It is now twelve months since Carol Daniels was appointed by the committee to the position as Editor of *PC Update*, in April last year.

Melb PC considers the Editor position so important that it is not just put up for grabs for anyone wanting to volunteer, but the appointment is made only after careful selection. Carol had acted in the Position Of Assistant Editor For Many Months before Ash Nallwalla felt confident enough to step aside and recommend Carol's appointment as Editor.

Ash has continued to maintain a watching brief as Managing Editor, but due to family and other commitments has now resigned from this position. And as we have all seen in the changes in *PC Update* during the past twelve months under Carol's strong leadership, we believe there is no need to continue to have the position of Managing Editor.

Most importantly we have not lost Ash's services completely, as he will continue to look after the reviews which make up such an important part of *PC Update*. His eagle eye in proofing text is unbelievable, and Ash will continue to assist here.

The committee regards the position of Editor of *PC Update* as one of Melb PC's most important positions, and having made the appointment, transfers all matters to the Editor's judgement and control. Although the committee will provide assistance when requested or necessary, otherwise in all matters the Editor's decision is final.

It is for this reason that the Editor carries the entire responsibility for the quality and content of *PC Update*, and to lead the team that put this excellent magazine together. Of course, the final link in the chain is Peter Smith who has somehow fits all the material together

in time for printing after Carol has finished.

Last month I finished up by talking about deadlines. I know I have enough problems, but it's just amazing how Carol somehow makes sure everyone else also complies. You can't always be popular doing a job like that, but as everyone who has ever worked under deadline knows—a deadline is just what the word says.

Carol—congratulations on all your efforts over the past twelve months, and I am sure all members are looking forward to what is coming in the next year. Let me assure you that you have the full support of the committee and the members for the way *PC Update* is developing.

Orientation day

Last month I spoke of the success of the first of these days, and this month's session was delayed due to the Grand Prix, but from bookings already to hand it appears that there will be two sessions this month.

The next date will be Saturday 5 April 1997 starting at 10.00 am. Please ring the office on (03) 9699 6222 to make a reservation, and always feel free to bring a non-member friend.

SIGs

Following an invitation from Joe Henry of Bendigo SIG, Morris Tobias and I had a very enjoyable trip up to Bendigo for their February meeting. Speaking to individual members, we came away with a number of ideas of new fields where we hope we can assist our members in regional areas in the future.

John Angelico of the os/2 SIG knew that I didn't know what an os/2 screen looked like, and although we shared an interesting night he did not gain me as a convert. My apologies to all who attended on that night as I later disappeared to become involved in the training seminar and some Internet hardware alterations which were happening at the same time.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a great opportunity for those who have a special interest and who use these nights to learn and share experiences. SIGs have always been one of the strengths of Melb PC, and we are pleased to see the

four new SIGs started in the past year.

To start a new SIG only requires ten members with a common interest to group together and show their willingness to start a SIG. Melb PC will then provide whatever support we can. It is very difficult to start a SIG in a regional area without the initiative of someone who lives in the area and is prepared to start the ball rolling.

If you believe there is interest in your area, please contact me, and Melb PC will work with you to try and reach members who may be interested. It is unfortunate to see some regional SIGs closing in recent years, and the committee is keen to see this situation reversed.

BBS

Jean D'Andrea has been leading the team preparing for the introduction of the new Wildcat BBS system. The new Pentium Pro BBS machine has arrived, and Barry McMenomy and Phil Lew have already installed the NT Server software donated by Microsoft.

At the monthly meeting we were pleased to welcome Ian Graham of Data System International, the distributor of Wildcat software in Australia. No doubt we will see more of Ian in future.

Internet

Just as we were starting processing subscription renewals, we have been suddenly hit with a new basis for charges to us for Internet traffic.

This has caused an enormous uproar amongst Internet providers throughout Australia, and we feel it will cause the demise of a lot of smaller ISPs who may have just entered the market.

Due to our size and the equipment already installed and paid for, we can consider ourselves in a comparatively fortunate position. We are continuing to investigate a number of options to minimise costs, however the one thing we do know is that there will be no diminishing of the available services.

By the way—for new subscribers and for those who may wish to change their user details, the new Internet subscription form is on page 33.

Training

Our first seminar training session in February was a great success with a full class to the limit of 40. The night in March for *Windows 95 for New Users* has been booked out and a second night was necessary.

Evolving from the first session it appears that many members are not sure what to do with the software after they download it from the BBS or the Internet. So for April we are offering; *Installing, Upgrading and Configuring Software Without Tears* starting at 6.30 pm on Friday 11 April 1997. Maybe it's a long title, but it is also a very broad subject.

The cost is again just \$15, please make your bookings to the office at (03) 9699 6222.

Until next month

As you can see there is a lot happening, some of the new ideas being implemented successfully, and a number of other ideas are being tested before making them available.

There is a lot happening at the moment to keep us busy—I started by saying February was a busy month, but that was quiet compared with what is happening at present.

Best wishes,
Stan



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When: Friday 11 April
6.30 pm
What: Seminar-format course:
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Cost: \$15
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KEEPING UP-TO-DATE

Paul Reynolds

If you are anything like me, once you've been bitten by the computer bug there's no satisfying that unquenchable thirst for more knowledge and information about what's the biggest, fastest or latest in hardware and software. How do you keep up? Well, besides the excellent *PC Update* (where else would you find the expertise and humour you find in a Tom Coleman article), I gather information from a variety of sources, some of which I have listed below.

Radio

The radio shows that I know of are listed below, but there may be others. If they are broadcast at an inconvenient time, do what I do and record them on cassette for later listening.

Libraries

The local library is a great resource for information including information about computers and computing. If you have the latest software and hardware, you may find your local library's offering includes some out-of-date books. But it is still worth a look. You may also find your local library provides public Internet access. This is a good way to try out the Internet. It's also a good option for anyone who only needs occasional access. [Ed: Melb PC also has a library of computer books and magazines—visit the office and check it out. —CD]

record them
for later
listening

Pay TV

Optus Vision has several computer related programs, on the Horizon Learning Channel. The *Bits and Bytes* show is particularly good. There is also *Ditto on Data*, *Home Computing*, *How to Buy a Computer*, *Crusin' the Internet* and *Computer Kids*. On Sundays CNN has *Computer Connection* and *Science and Technology Report*.

Dial Help

Finally my greatest source of information is those magnificent volunteers listed in Dial Help insert in the Melb PC member's edition of *PC Update*. I would especially like to thank Brian Nestor for his generosity in sharing his amazing knowledge of personal computers. □

Monday	Computer Chat	3AK	1503	6.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Family, Home/Office, Competitions
	Byte Into It	3RRR FM	102.7	7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	Zany, fun, full on, great show
Tuesday	Computer News	Triple M	105.1	Three times daily	
Wednesday	Virginia Wolf's Home Page	3CR	855	9.00 am – 10.00 am,	
	Net at Night	FOX FM	101.9	10.00 pm – 11.00 pm	General info plus music
Thursday	John Faine	3LO	774	10.10 am	Our own Charles Wright
	Tony Delroy	3LO	774	10.15 pm – 11.00 pm, second Thursday of month	
Saturday	Kaos Engine	3RRR FM	102.7	10.00 pm – midnight, every second Saturday	Industrial music and computer games
Sunday	Computer Program	3RPH	1179	8.30 pm – 9.30 pm	Computer articles read from magazines, including <i>PC Update</i>

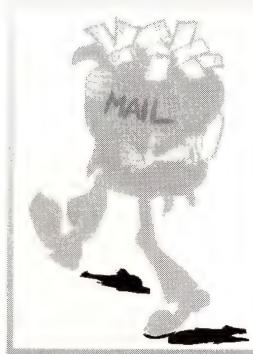
Byte Box

MEMBER'S LETTER

Malcolm Dean

PC Update in Belgium

I guess this is how a letter to the editor is done. There is a first time for everything.



just wanted to say how delighted I was to receive the Feb 97 edition of *PC Update* yesterday at my new temporary residence in Waterloo, Belgium. I was fully expecting that the club would not be able to service a member overseas—so was very pleasantly surprised.

Another PC magazine for which I had a subscription (VBP) was not able to do the same.

Given that there are no readily available PC magazines in English here makes it even more special, and I have been feeling PC withdrawal symptoms over the last couple of months.

Since arriving here, I have kept up contacts with Internet activities through a subscription to IBM.NET. This is not an ad—but it is very convenient to be able to log in from various locations which I have so far done from several in Europe and the USA.

I miss the services of the Melb PC BBS though—makes me wonder if there isn't a way to make its variety available to a wider audience, i.e like me here !!

Regards, Malcolm Dean

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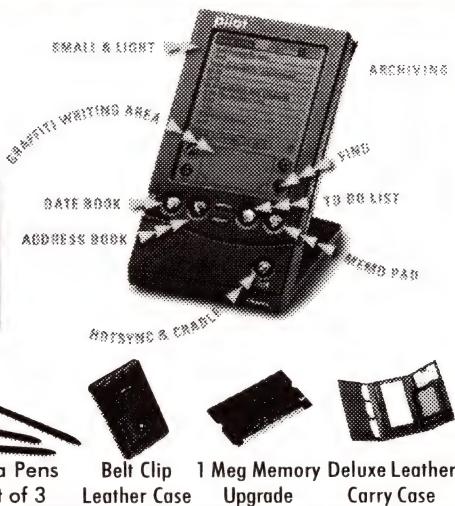


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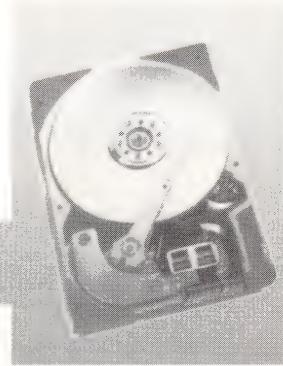
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Are you looking SCSI lately?

PART 1: SCSI GENESIS

Fred Townsend



What is SCSI? SCSI is an acronym for Small Computer System Interface. Who originated SCSI? To answer that question we'll have to go back to the origins of Shugart Associates.

IBM invented the floppy disk. Allen Shugart was quick to see the market for floppy disk drives outside of IBM. To fulfill his vision, Shugart surrounded himself with some of the finest minds around and called the company Shugart Associates (SA). Allen Shugart is a mechanical engineer. It's not too surprising the key people at SA tended to be mechanical engineers too. At SA, mechanical engineering projects competed with electrical projects for development funds and usually won.

Designing the electrical circuits of the floppy drive was not particularly difficult. The first designs used standard "glue" (off-the-shelf) chips. When the focus shifted from 8-inch floppies to 5-inch floppies, the electrical engineers said "Big deal". The 5-inch drive was intended to be cheaper, not better. Electrically, its circuits were inferior to the existing 8-inch drives.

The challenge of designing floppy drives was in the electro-mechanical (E/M) and read/write head designs. Here the engineers scrambled because none of the existing commodity E/M parts were really adequate. They cost too much and their quality severely limited performance.

Hard drives shrink

IBM, and several other companies had been making hard drives for over a decade. They were big washing machine drives that used hydraulics to position the heads, and sometimes the heads didn't move at all, as in the "Fixed Head" machines. The capacity of the smaller versions was 10 to 20 megabytes, but it still took four men to lift one.

Allen continued to watch IBM's technology. At that time the industry was starting to focus on Winchester hard disk technology. While nobody really agreed exactly what Winchester technology was or meant, they did agree it was the future technology for hard drives and hot stuff. Winchester technology focused on providing comparable storage capacity in a much smaller sized drive.

Allen started developing hard drives at

Shugart Associates. It's difficult to say which drive model was first because of infant mortality. There was the model SA604, the 606, followed by the 612. By then, the new half height technology had taken over the floppy market. The half height idea was quickly transferred to the hard disks where the 612 model became the 712.

Hard drives offered a few technical challenges to the electrical engineer, but mostly the challenges were still how to make the circuits cheaper, not better. At this time hard drives were seldom in PCs. Rather, they were system components in mainframe computing.

SASI emerges

Some of the Shugart engineers reasoned if these drives were system components, they should have a system interface. So the Shugart Associates System Interface (SASI) came into being.

SASI was not immediately accepted. Some argued the SASI interface was needed, while others did not see the need in the newly emerging PC market. What value was SASI when mainframes were becoming less popular, they argued. The MFM hard drives use a speeded up version of the serial floppy interface. SASI is a parallel interface! It can't even talk to a floppy or a regular hard drive. Some rationalised it was just a project to keep the electrical engineers happy.

What's in a name?

Shugart's marketing department tried to sell the SASI interface to the systems people and the mainframers. It was a hard sell. For one thing, the name was wrong. Nobody wants to advertise a competitor's name. HP had a similar problem when they designed a parallel bus to control test equipment. They called it the Hewlett Packard Interface Bus (HPIB). When HP offered their bus, royalty free, there weren't too many takers until the name was changed to the General Purpose Interface Bus (GPIB). The old bus with the new name was sent to the ANSI committee for blessing and became the IEEE488 bus standard. After that, lots of manufacturers signed up to use the bus.

SASI was just one of Shugart's many

problems. At the same time many other companies had figured out how to make floppy drives, SA's bread and butter. Profits were eroding. Layoffs started. Head hunters found SA easy pickings as they raided some of the best talent. Then Xerox stepped up and offered to buy SA. Shugart and his investors accepted.

Part of the buy out agreement was that Allen Shugart could not start another floppy-drive company. That was fine with Allen. He wanted no part of this profit-starved field. Instead, he and his mechanical engineers, headed for Scotts Valley where they started Seagate. Their initial product looked an awful lot like an old SA606. They called it the ST506.

Origins of SCSI

After the Xerox buy out, some of the orphaned electrical engineers at SA left with the announced intention of making SASI chips. They called their new company Adaptec. NCR had been one of the few companies that seriously investigated the SASI interface. NCR and Adaptec learned from HP's experience. Rather than propose an Adaptec or NCR bus, they encouraged formulation of an ANSI committee for small computer interfaces. The committee made several important changes to the SASI interface. First, they made sure the interface had all the necessary elements to become a multi-threaded bus. Second, they added the command set functions that allowed a device to define itself to other bus devices. This allowed temporary bus masters and devices other than disks to utilise the bus. Now a tape drive, CD-ROM, disk drive and printer could all exchange information without passing that information through the CPU.

Even with ANSI endorsement, Adaptec found SCSI a hard sell too. The drive manufacturers were the biggest problem. Until someone made a SCSI drive, what good was a SCSI bus? The Adaptec applications engineers began designing SCSI applications to give away to anyone that would buy their chips. One of their first designs was the ACB4000 intelligent SCSI interface for dumb disk drives like the ST506. Now any manufacturer that could design a simple parallel interface, could utilise Winchester drives without knowing how the drives operated.

Meanwhile, the drive manufacturers realised the old ST506 transfer rate of 625 KB per second wasn't going work for larger systems. There was another problem too. While the disk controller and the disk drive could pass data back and forth, the drive couldn't tell the controller anything about itself.

It did little good to have an intelligent controller if it didn't have any information about the disk it controls. For instance the drive couldn't tell the controller its capacity or worse, where its bad tracks were located. Some drives were shipped with a printout of bad tracks while others shipped the information on floppy disks. This did little to solve the problem.

The manufacturers generally agreed the intelligence belonged in the drive itself, rather than in the controller but, the drive community split on what to do about the problem. One sector argued the existing ST506 interface could be upgraded. Another sector argued the ST506 interface should be junked and a new interface designed. A third sector argued the SCSI interface (or SCSI bus) should be used.

ESDI stopgap

The upgrade advocates were first with their Enhanced Small Disk Interface (ESDI). ESDI used the same physical MFM (ST506) interface, but with different

electrical and software specifications. The data rate was doubled to 1.650 MB per second (MBps). Information about the drive was stored on the drive itself, but the intelligence required to run the drive remained on the drive controller. This concession made it relatively easy to interface ESDI to an existing PC BIOS.

IDE smart disk

A different group of "start over" advocates came up with the Advanced Technology (AT) or Intelligent Disk Interface (IDE). Unlike the ESDI, the IDE interface uses parallel data transfer for a 6 MB per second data transfer rate. The drive controller intelligence is totally embedded within the drive. The PC-side interface requires simple hardware similar to a parallel printer port.

IDE or SCSI?

Detractors from the SCSI interface argued that the SCSI command set was not rich enough to fully control disk drives, and that all the intelligence belonged in the disk drive. They also argued IDE was a better interface because it was faster with a 6 MBps versus SCSI's 5 MBps transfer rate. Also, since IDE was an interface rather than a bus, it was faster without the need for bus protocols.

The SCSI advocates cried foul. They argued the SCSI command set was an

open set that permitted adding any commands needed. Furthermore, the SCSI bus permitted the coexistence of dissimilar devices that could communicate at much faster data rates (and modes) than the IDE interface. Intelligent peripherals only enhanced its performance.

The argument between SCSI and IDE advocates has raged ever since, with IDE usually winning on economic issues, and SCSI winning on performance issues. Today the battle is almost finished. Low end entry systems still use the IDE interface, but their numbers are dwindling. Middle to high end systems (such as graphics, file servers, UNIX, Macintosh and mainframes) all use SCSI buses. The command set has been enriched to include commands for tape drives, printers, and multimedia, as well as a very rich set of commands for hard drives. Today, it's usually cheaper to use one SCSI interface rather than separate interfaces for disk and multimedia and thus the single advantage of IDE is disappearing.

Next month

Part 2 of this 5-part series: *An overview of SCSI technology*.

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Originally printed in the Journal of the Silicon Valley Computer Society (SVCS).

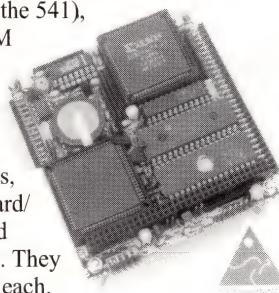
Australian-made Embedded Computers: PC/104 or ISA bus

PC540/1 PC/104 Computers

These computers use the PC/104 bus, an international standard for embedded systems. The X86 instruction sets suit standard PC compilers, or the \$179 Pacific C Compiler. These boards use the 80C188EB and V51 CPUs.

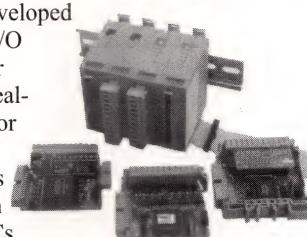
The boards run programs from PROM or a FLASH-based DOS provides the familiar DOS environment. DRAM to 1 Mbyte or CMOS RAM to 512 Kbyte is available.

Both boards have two serial ports (550 compatible on the 541), RTC, EEPROM and Xilinx gate arrays for additional I/O. The 540 has 40 I/O lines, The 541 has hard/floppy disk and LPT interfaces. They are \$350/\$450 each.



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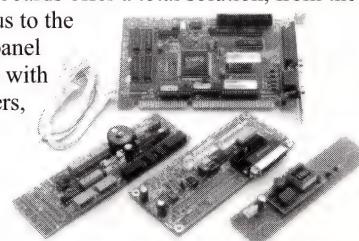
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Digital music

TUTORIAL

John Bracey



Most people that read this article will have a computer. Only about one in twenty of these people is aware that with a few extra "add ons" such as a sound card or Musical Instrument Digital Interface (referred to as MIDI), speakers or earphones, and the appropriate software, their personal computer can be transformed into a side of computing that was previously unknown to them. The computer can become a machine that can create, reproduce, record and play back digitised samples (sounds) that can vary from a grand piano to that of an entire symphony orchestra with an accompanying choir. Today's PC can be turned into an electronic recording studio capable of recording sound quality much superior to that of any of the major recording studios that were around during the 1950's and 60's. Many of the 78 RPM masters of that era have been digitised and are now sold on CDs. Glenn Miller's orchestra sounds better today than when the original recordings were made. Digital can best be defined as the representation, manipulation, or transmission of data by discrete signals such as bits that represent zeros or ones.

Just about every computer that is sold today comes with a CD-ROM drive as standard equipment. The 5.25-inch floppy drive and disk will soon be a thing of the past and, in time, the 3.5-inch floppy will probably follow. The Computer Industry, in anticipation of the recent

interest in electronic media (audio, video, graphics, etc) has made certain that computer users will need a CD-ROM drive. CDs will be easier and cheaper to produce and harder to "pirate" or make illegal copies. There will be little if any need to publish user manuals. They will be on the CD with the software, along with photos or video clips and sound, tutoring you through your software program. The Music Industry has also moved from tape to CDs. New cars come with a CD and not a tape player. With proper software, your computer's CD-ROM drive can play your music CDs as well as the text and graphics CDs you purchase for your computer. Why digital sound? The sound quality is excellent and sound bits require less storage space on CD than on magnetic tape. If you take reasonable care of your CDs, the sound quality will be the same on the thousandth play as the first because there is no magnetic oxide surface to wear away like there is on a floppy disk.

P.G. Music, Inc. of Buffalo, NY is one of the first companies to produce truly realistic music software that takes advantage of digital encoding. Most of their piano sounds were created on a "weighted" midi keyboard that was being played by a very competent musician. A "weighted" keyboard simulates both the touch and feel of a very fine piano and as a result, the artist playing the song or composition is able to emulate an expensive grand piano, sensitive to the slightest touch. The software, which includes both text

and graphics, was written so that the final product gives the user digital sound that can be indistinguishable from the real thing. Keep in mind that the better the MIDI device, sound board, and speakers used to reproduce the digitised sounds, the more natural or realistic the sounds will be.

With a computer, the amateur or professional can compose or create sounds and store and replay them in unlimited combinations. In future articles, we will explore some of the equipment that must be added to the computer to do all of this.

This article was reprinted from the May 1996 issue of Throughput, the Journal of the SouthWest International Computer Club, El Paso, Texas.

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Sharing the value

USER GROUP EXPERIENCE

William B. Austin

Well, after talking about it for a couple of years, I finally put my money where my mouth was. If you don't recall who I am, I am the guy who always talks at APCUG events about giving away memberships in the local computer user group as presents.

You probably remember the spiel, "If *Sports Illustrated* can be considered something worth giving as a gift then certainly a user group membership..." If we really believe in the value of the user group experience, then we should be giving gift memberships to everyone we know, no matter where they live.

This year I gave two memberships in the San Diego Computer Society to relatives in San Diego, one membership in the North Orange County (California) Computer Club to someone in Tustin, and a membership in the Capitol PC Users Group to someone in Maryland. I found the contacts on their web sites. Someone actually found me and got directions for sending us a cheque, for a

South Mountain Users Group (SMUG) membership...his daughter had specifically asked for that, for Christmas.

Now I think it is time to expand this program. We can triple the worldwide membership of User Groups in a couple of months.

I know this is too late for Christmas, 1996 but a few more events are coming up which should be on your gift list. Graduations, students going away to college, housewarmings, weddings, anniversaries, going-away parties, and of course, it's never too early to plan for Christmas 1997.

About the author

William B. Austin is the President of the South Mountain Users Group and the AZTEC Users Group Forum SIG Moderator, he can be contacted at austin@aztec.asu.edu

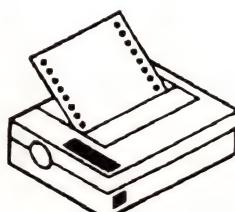
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[Ed: I think this is a brilliant idea. It promotes and links the philosophies of user groups, "Users Helping Users" and APCUG, "User Groups Helping User Groups." Not to mention the good luck of the recipient of the gift!]

William is right, it's too late for the 1996 holiday season and even the retail industry would agree it's too early for the 1997 holiday season. But there are still plenty of times when a gift of user group membership would be appropriate (check out the APCUG web site <http://www.apcug.org> for contact information for other groups in Australia, NZ, the UK, Canada, and the USA!)—you know how to contact Melb PC.]

William mentions a few, potential gift-giving occasions. I'd like to add, Mother's and Father's Day, Secretary's Day, Grandmother's Day, Anzac Day, the Queen's Birthday (you don't have to give it to Her, just because you give it on Her birthday.) Or be a life saver and give a family membership to a family where the children's computer prowess is destroying the parent's confidence—CD.] □

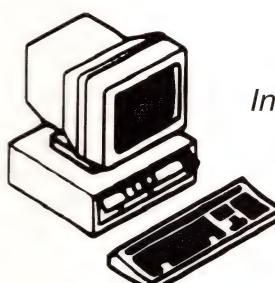
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Seeing the Basics: Visual Basic bookshelf

VB 4 TIPS

Tony Stevenson

Two worthy books for your VB library

Two of the most important aspects of writing Windows programs using Visual Basic are, first, the design of the user interface and, second, the underlying file storage system used.

Of the many hundreds of computer books published annually, only a relatively small number are devoted to the topic of graphical user interface (GUI) design. One such book is Carl Zetie's *Practical User Interface Design*, which is aptly subtitled *Making GUIs Work*.

And as regards the underlying storage medium used in VB applications, many developers like to use Microsoft Access as their preferred relational database. It is robust, powerful, and provides the features required for many professional database application. Because it is from the same company as Visual Basic, there is not the potential for conflict, which can sometimes happen with products from different vendors mixed together in the one program suite.

For information about database development using VB, the preferred choice for many developers is Roger Jennings' *Database Developer's Guide with Visual Basic 4*.

Practical User Interface Design: Making GUIs Work

The development tools available today would appear to make interface design and creation a straightforward process. By using your mouse, you simply select a Window object, such as a command button or text box from a tool box, drag it onto the window being created, and then manipulate it, by either using your mouse again, or by changing the contents of the control's properties using the keyboard.

Anyone who has been in computing for a number of years (especially going back to before the rapid advances made possible with personal computers) would not deny that the modern processes are indeed far easier (and much more fun) than the laborious techniques previously used.

However good interface design is much more involved than just throwing together a whole bunch of controls and

objects onto a window, and then releasing the application to users. As stated in the introduction of Zetie's book, *User interface design is a complex, multi-faceted discipline. It is far from easy ...*

Well-designed interfaces must be easy to use and possess the capacity to increase the productivity of their users.

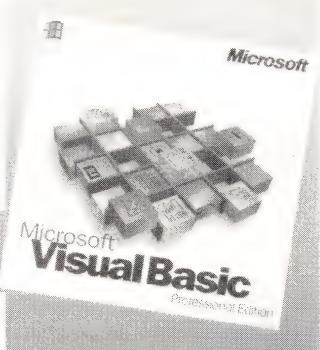
The introduction to this book looks at some of the myths associated with the graphical user interface before covering different aspects such as measuring the user interface, the user interface architect, usability testing, graphic design and visual appearance.

Subsequent chapters of the book cover

- The fundamental principles of design
- Conceptual models and metaphors—for example, the Macintosh uses a desktop as its conceptual model, whilst a rubbish bin is used as a metaphor representing an object associated with the desktop
- Taskflow, which involves investigating the manner in which the various units of work making up a task are to be satisfactorily accomplished;
- Dialog design
- The issues, steps, and objects (that is, controls such as check boxes, pop-down lists, etc.) which are involved in the detailed design of interfaces
- And finally two aspects of the interface design process which are unfortunately too often overlooked or given scant attention—error handling and the provision of help and adequate documentation.

The book concludes with two appendices, the first of which looks at the criteria involved in choosing the proper design tool for the job to be accomplished. And the second appendix provides information about the floppy disk that accompanies this book. On this disk is a program that is used to demonstrate the concepts, ideas, and techniques which have been outlined in the various chapters of the book.

Carl Zetie: *Practical User Interface Design: Making GUIs Work*
Published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1995
251 pages plus floppy disk
ISBN: 0 07 709167 1
RRP: \$69.95



This column provides techniques, tips, and tricks to help you gain familiarity and experience with MS Visual Basic: a popular language that enables you to quickly write Windows applications.

Database Developer's Guide with Visual Basic 4 (Second Edition)

Roger Jennings has written a comprehensive text of over a thousand pages, with a companion CD-ROM.

Just some of the topics covered include chapters devoted to Visual Basic 4.0 data access objects and controls (with an introduction to, and detailed explanation of the Microsoft Jet 3.0 Data Access Object (DAO), a thorough knowledge of which is mandatory for the successful development of VB database applications), and the concepts underlying database and query design as well as database front-end design. Later chapters cover advanced programming guidelines and techniques, the database front ends required for multi user and client/server environments, and the steps and processes involved in the distribution of commercial database front ends (including documentation, help files, and the creation of distribution disks).

Three other chapters of Jenning's book focus on the benefits and advantages to be gained from using the features available in the Enterprise edition of Visual Basic 4.0. Topics include the Remote Data Object (RDO) and the Remote Data Control (RDC), Remote Automation Objects, and Visual SourceSafe 4.0 (which is a version control system especially utilised in those larger, and mission critical, VB projects where lots of developers are involved in coding the application).

The disc contains the example databases and the associated programs developed throughout the course of the book, along with:

- The Attila / VB add-on; VB add-ons allow the Visual Basic 4.0 development environment to be customised, for example, through the addition of extra options and items onto the existing VB 4.0 menu structure. Attila can be used to impose naming conventions, to set up default settings for the fonts used

in controls, and to establish a custom property set for the different types of controls used in an application. For example, a custom property set for all text boxes might stipulate that they all use the same designated background colour.

- The TrueGrid Pro control can be used to set up the automatic feeding in of data elements (at run time) from tables in specified databases into a grid like control. The grid's layout and appearance can also be altered interactively at design time.
- The DataTable Spreadsheet / Grid control, plus a selection of sample versions and product demonstrations of other components suitable for use within VB 4.0 applications. These include gauge controls, wizards for generating source code for message and input boxes and common dialogs, charting controls, a report writer tool, a data modeling tool, a geographic mapping and analysis control, VB-Cert (used in preparing for the Microsoft Visual Basic Application Development exam), as well as the means for writing Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs) with Visual Basic without having to use the C programming language or the Windows SDK (Software Development Kit).

Any programmers who are serious about

developing commercially viable VB database applications should seriously consider adding the Database Developer's Guide to their VB bookshelf. The wealth of knowledge and abundance of techniques it contains will prove to be a sound investment.

Roger Jennings: *Database Developer's Guide with Visual Basic 4 (Second Edition)*

Published by Sams Publishing, 1996
1088 pages plus CD-ROM
ISBN: 0 672 30652 2
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Availability

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Thanks Again, and best wishes.

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Mark Boyd
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BASIC basics

Part 3

PROGRAMMING TUTORIAL

John M Graham

Basic
All-purpose
Symbolic
Instruction
Code

There was enough feedback from the previous installments to indicate that at least a few people were interested so here is another installment. There is a serious problem involved in writing this part—I have to write it before the second part gets to all the members! I do not yet have feedback concerning errors, omissions and confusing statements. If you have a question call me or leave a message on the club BBS.

The first installment contained an explanation of how to get a BASIC compiler onto your computer. Telephone calls and BBS messages alerted us to some problems. Almost immediately the BBS people got the required file up as FIRSTBAS.ZIP. I learnt that some interested people could not access the BBS so I talked to the shareware people and found out that they have First Basic on disk Melb 8723 and Power Basic on disk disk Melb 8724. [Ed: Order forms are on page 32.—PS] Now the FIRSTBAS compiler is available from both sources. If you use one of the older BASIC interpreters most of what I write will work, but there will be minor irritations.

The previous installment contained examples of a data file, opening an input file and an output file and writing a simple program. Now you must learn more "reserved words" (commands) so that you can make statements to do whatever you want.

To get into the HELP menu, first you must be in FIRSTBAS then press function key F1 and read the message. Press F1 again to obtain a table of contents. Use arrow keys to highlight an item in the table of contents and press Enter. If all is well you will have entered into a fantastic world. Use arrow keys and Page keys to move the highlight. Use Enter to see more about the highlighted item. F1 gets you back to table of contents. Esc to exit.

There is little possibility that you can remember much that is in HELP or learn how to use all of the various commands, meta-statements and so on in less than at least a year of full-time practice. You do not need to memorise it. As you have already seen, a simple program uses only a few words. What is very important is to have a vague idea of the type of

information available in HELP. If I use a new word or you have some sort of a message or you want to try something then you will be able to use HELP to try to get help.

After you have roamed around HELP for a while, it is time to get back to simple programs.

To discuss programs we must first have an understanding of the vocabulary used and especially of its confusing points. Many simple things that a program does are called "statements." For example

A = B + 2

is a statement,

LET A = B + 2

is a statement that means the same as the previous one. Another example of a statement is

FTM = ABS ((L(11,J)) MOD (1000))

and statements can be much more complex than these examples.

But—if you look in HELP you will find that some reserved words are in lists identified in the table of contents as Statements, some in Functions and some in Meta-statements. So understand that the word statement can refer to a specific word (see HELP) or it can refer to a group of words and symbols that have a meaning in a program. In my writing I try to remember to refer to reserved words as word or reserved word but sometimes I fail. You must remember that when I say statement I usually do not mean what the HELP table of contents means.

When I write "input the command" or some similar phrase I expect you to press the Enter key at the end of each line without being explicitly told to do so.

The first two examples were in a previous installment. The third example is a program that reads and does things with characters (letters and symbols). In example two we did very simple character manipulation when we used the mid\$(...) command.

Read the "\$" sign as "string"; mid\$ can be read as "mid-string". If there is a statement T\$ = mid\$(S\$,10,4) it would be read "Let tee string be the 4 characters starting with the tenth character in S\$". "Let" is the BASIC word to say "place in" so the statement could be read as "place in tee string the ... ". The first symbol in

the brackets is the identifier for the string to be used. The second symbol in the brackets indicates where in the string to start. The third symbol indicates the number of characters to include. The second and third symbol can be numbers or can be variables that have previously been assigned a numeric value.

Here's a minor example to illustrate the previous sentence and to be used later.

```
for I=1 to 10: print  
    mid$(S$,I,1); " "  
;asc(mid$(S$,I,1),: next
```

The example will print the character and the numeric (ASCII) value of the character for the first 10 characters in S\$.

In almost similar form there is a "left\$" and a "right\$", see HELP.

To give S\$ a value (to load it, to get something into it) it can be placed in a statements such as

```
S$ = "Now is the time for all  
good men"
```

(in this case the double quotation marks are part of the statement, not just part of my writing). Another way to load S\$ was shown in example two using the Line Input reserved words.

To test programs demonstrating character and word manipulation there must be a text file as data. I looked through my freeware/shareware disks for an idea and found 5.25-inch 360 KB freeware disks 328 through 334. They contain the King James Bible. For those of you unacquainted with it, don't worry, it won't contaminate you to read a few lines or rearrange the layout. For the purposes of this exercise you need only disk 1 of the set. That contains the first three books and the ARCE.COM decompression program among other things. I suppose that now instead of coming in a 7-disk set it would come on a couple of small disks from the shareware people.

The example program(s) will be built to use the text disks mentioned, but if you do not have those disks you can change a few characters in the example programs and try using some text that you have.

To prepare the data file make directory EXTEXT and change to that directory. To do that input the following commands.

```
C:\  
MD EXTEXT  
CD EXTEXT
```

Then put the library disk in drive A:
and input the commands

```
COPY A:BIBLE1.ARC  
COPY A:ARCE.COM
```

Do a DIR command to be sure that you have the two files in C:\EXTTEXT then enter

```
ARCE BIBLE1.ARC
```

Wait until the action ceases and again type DIR. You should find, among other things, GEN.TXT. None of the other files are relevant to this example so you can delete everything except GEN.TXT also remove the library disk from A: and put it away.

If you have the FIRSTBAS compiler RENamed to FB and in your PATH as suggested previously you can now use it from anywhere by typing FB. If it is not in the PATH then each place where I put FB you must put

C:\POWERBAS\FIRSTBAS\FIRSTBAS because that is where the installation file places the FirstBas compiler and it will stay there unless you do something about it.

To look at the plain text, input the command

```
FB GEN.TXT
```

Observe that the first character of each verse is a special character (not a normal underline). There will be more discussion of that much later. After looking then enter Alt+X to exit FB

Now let's assume that you want to write a program that will search that file for some word or phrase that you specify. In other words, use the computer as a concordance.

Note that in the data file many verses are spread over several lines. Unless something is done about it, a search program would miss a phrase if it started on one line and ended on another. Let's edit the data file. There will need to be several changes made, but in this example they will be done one or two at a time. That is not efficient programming, but it will make it easier to understand.

To start writing a program input a command that calls the FB compiler and specifies a file name.

```
FB EDITBIB1
```

When you get a clear screen, copy program EDITBIB1. Every now and then press function F2 to save your work thus far. No need to copy comments except for the first four. The indenting is not necessary, but it makes it easier to understand. (Refer to Listing 1, adjacent.)

This is the end of the first part of example 3. The data file has been changed to a more convenient format. You can look at GEN2.TXT using FB just as you looked at the original. FB does not have enough space so it will ask

```
'program EditBib1 to edit the data in text file GEN.TXT so that  
' 1. all of a verse is on one line  
' 2. everything is in upper case letters  
'original version 20/2/97  
  
' do not even TRY to understand the next 10 program lines -  
' just include them in every program until you have learned  
' much more  
ON KEY (31) GOSUB GETOUTOFTTHIS  
KEY (31) ON  
GOTO KEEPGOING  
GETOUTOFTTHIS:  
PRINT "STOPPED BY FUNCTION 12 KEY"  
END  
KEEPGOING:  
cls  
print "clear the screen"  
print "FUNCTION KEY F12 will stop the program"  
print "then any key to return to the program listing"  
  
OPEN "I", 1, "GEN.TXT"  
OPEN "O", 2, "GEN2.TXT"  
  
Width #2, 256  
  
while not eof(1)  
  
    Line Input #1, S$  
    if len(S$) > 2 then goto SKIP  
    S$ = ucase$(S$)  
  
    if left$(S$,1) = chr$(31) then  
        print #2, T$  
  
    if len(T$) > LongLine then LongLine = len(T$)  
    incr k  
  
    if k mod 100 = 0 then print k;" ";left$(T$,10)  
    T$ = right$(S$,len(S$)-1)  
  
else  
  
    T$ = rtrim$(T$) + " " + ltrim$(S$)  
end if  
SKIP:  
wend  
print "The length of the longest line is " LongLine  
print "end"  
end
```

Listing 1.

you if it is allowed to truncate the file, reply Yes. **Do not save the truncated file** or you will have to make a new one by running EDITBIB1 again. A future improvement will be to make the program EDITBIB1 into EDITBIB2, which will put the whole Bible in upper case letters, one line per verse in a file. Then when the following program is used it will search the whole Bible, not just one book.

A function is more complicated than a reserved word. Mid\$(...) is a function. Another convenient function is one that returns the numerical location of a character or symbol in a statement. For example the statement

```
B=INSTR(S$, ":" )
```

would place in variable B the numeric value of the position in string S\$ of the first colon.

```
B=INSTR(10,S$, "xyz")
```

would place in B the number indicating the position of a lower case "x" which was followed by "yz" with the search starting with the tenth character. When used in an IF statement the INSTR function works as you would logically want it to work. It is used that way in the program in listing 2.

After you have tried the preceding programs, try to write some of your own to count the characters or count the letters or count the words in a text file. Try to create an alphabetical list of all of the words in a file, listing each word only once, but counting the number of times it occurs.

About the author

John M Graham retired several years ago from RMIT where he was a member of the Communications and Electronic Engineering department, teaching subjects related to electronics and engineering applications of computers. He can be contacted at (03) 9877 0480 or on the bbs, (include the middle initial, messages without it go to someone else). □

```
'Program SEARCH1.BAS
'This program asks what to search for,
'then uses the INSTR function to
'search a text file for a specified string
'original 25/2/97
ON KEY (31) GOSUB GETOUTOFTTHIS
KEY (31) ON
GOTO KEEPGOING
GETOUTOFTTHIS:
PRINT "STOPPED BY FUNCTION 12 KEY"
END
KEEPGOING:
cls                                'clear the screen
print "FUNCTION KEY F12 will stop the program then"
print "any key to return to the program listing"

OPEN "I", 1, "GEN2.TXT"
OPEN "O", 2, "SELECT1.TXT"
Input "Input the search string" SS$
SS$ = ucase$(SS$)
while not eof(1)
    Line Input #1, S$
    if instr(S$,SS$) then
        print #2, S$
        incr k
    end if
wend
print "end";" ";k;" verses found to contain the"
print "specified text are in file SELECT1.TXT"
```

Listing 2.

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Tips and tricks

MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER

George Skarbek



Two caps problems

I like the feature in Word that eliminates two initial caps but on rare occasions when I need the first two letters capitalised, as when referring to PCs, Word will "correct" it. To overcome this, press the undo keys, Ctrl+Z, immediately after the "correction" has occurred and the text immediately reverts to what was originally typed.

Find wasted space on a Win 95 system

To find how much wasted space there is in any given folder, open a DOS box and type DIR /V. This command will not work in DOS 6.x, only with Windows 95. A folder with many small files, such as .BAT files, will show the worst result. Typing DIR C:\ /S /V will eventually show how much wasted space there is on the entire hard drive. The bytes figure shows the usual size given by the DIR command. The bytes allocated figure shows how much disk

space is actually consumed by these files.

Having found out that you are wasting heaps, what are your options?

- If you have lots of disk space left, relax and do nothing.
- If you rarely use the files in a folder that has lots of wasted space, use PKZIP to compress them into one file.
- If practical, use Partition Magic to create two or more partitions of your hard disk so that you have drive C and D etc. (Smaller drives have smaller cluster sizes and less space is wasted.)
- Enable DriveSpace on Windows 95 or DoubleSpace on Windows 3.1. With Win 95 you can set the compression to zero and have no noticeable effect on general performance, except when defragmenting. To compress a Win 95 disk, consider using Microsoft Plus, as it has significant improvements.

See more of your Win 95 desktop

Click the *Start* button and from the *Settings* menu select the Taskbar. Select the *Auto hide* checkbox and click *OK*. Once it's hidden, you can see the Taskbar at any time by moving your cursor quickly to the bottom edge of the screen. In this way you will always have more of your applications visible, such as Word, Netscape etc..

Moving between documents in Word

When editing two or more Word documents simultaneously, my fingers are on the keyboard and thus it is relatively slow to use the mouse to switch documents. Keystroke toggle keys are Ctrl+F6 to go the next document window and Shift+Ctrl+F6 (or Alt+F6) to go to the previous one.

How to save pictures in Netscape

Saving pictures is easy but perhaps not as intuitive as saving text. Just place the cursor over the picture and click the right mouse button. With most recent program releases, right clicking the mouse invokes a program manager that enables you to view or manipulate the object's properties. In Netscape this will bring up a menu. From the menu, *Save this Image as*. If there are several images, then you must save each individually. □



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The Group today proudly has a membership of people from all walks of life and with a broad range of computer skills. With this vast store of knowledge, members have access to information and help in numerous fields—programming, software solutions, DOS and Windows, communications, to name just a few.

Magazine

Melb PC's magazine, **PC Update**, is sent to members 11 times a year. **PC Update** publishes articles written by members and all members are welcome, indeed encouraged, to write articles on a subject they know about, to share with others. **PC Update** occasionally reprints articles from overseas user groups, to keep Melb PC members as up-to-date as possible.

PC Update has won awards in each of the last six years in the International User Groups' Newsletter Contest. Some of the many awards it has won are "Best Feature Articles," "Best Publication," "Best Features and Reviews," and "Best Columnist." It has also been runner-up in "Best Publication" and "Best Layout and Design." Many people join the Group just for the value **PC Update** provides, well worth the annual membership fee on its own, and then discover all the other benefits of membership.

A year's membership of Melb PC, which includes having **PC Update** delivered to you, costs about as much as it does to buy a year's issues over the counter.

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This unique service is made available free to members simply because volunteers within the Group give their time and knowledge to assist with any computing problems you may have. About 300 telephone numbers of unpaid volunteers, with day- and night-time contacts, are mailed to members with their **PC Update**. The service covers over 120 separate topics.

Training

The Group provides training in a diverse range of computer skills, from starting with computers to advanced programming.

Melb PC has its own fully-equipped training centre, using networked Pentium systems. Courses are run as a service to members and thus are budgeted on a break-even basis, making them very cost-competitive when compared to similar courses elsewhere.

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Most classes are run in the evenings or at weekends, when parking is readily available. The Club's rooms are also easily accessible by public transport.

All courses provide suitable training material and support and a list of courses on offer to members appears in each issue of **PC Update**.

Monthly meeting

Each month, except January, Melb PC holds a meeting, open to members and visitors, which is usually addressed by representatives from the computer industry on topics of general interest. They frequently give away samples of software and other products. The speakers include many from Australian vendors and distributors—we have also been privileged to be addressed by CEOs such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn, Gordon Eubanks who made special visits to address us.

There is also the ability to address questions to the membership at large, seeking advice or problem-solving. Shareware and diskettes are for sale and members take the opportunity to socialise and discuss anything that takes their fancy—even computers!

Following the meeting many members gather for a meal, arranged at a convenient restaurant, at "user-friendly" prices.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Group has SIGs covering many aspects of computer use. A SIG can deal with any topic relating to personal computing, ranging from particular applications to hardware and programming, or how to get the best from your equipment.

There are also regional SIGs, for members of local geographical areas.

A list of meeting dates, places and contacts for SIGs is published each month in **PC Update**, with reports of past and future activities. All SIG meetings are available to any member.

Bulletin board

Melb PC operates a 23-hours-a-day bulletin board system (BBS) as another member service. The BBS, running on 34 lines, is the biggest OS/2-based BBS in the world.

The BBS has two main functions—electronic mail and message exchange, and file transfer facilities. The mail and messaging facilities enable members to exchange messages with each other and to seek help on a wide range of topics, not only from other members but also from the world-wide PC community. This service gives BBS users access to an enormous pool of experience and talent on a vast array of subjects. If you have a problem, put a message on the BBS and, more often than not, it's answered in a day or so!

The BBS carries many files on a range of topics. These have been uploaded by members who found them useful and can be downloaded by other members. They include many useful utilities and the latest versions of shareware software, often obtained from overseas BBSs before appearing in other Australian outlets.

Internet service

The club provides access to a 127-line full-featured Internet service, providing access to Usenet, ftp, irc, www, gopher and telnet.

SLIP/PPP accounts are provided. This popular service is being expanded and enhanced to serve a larger number of members.

Software library

Melb PC maintains an extensive and up-to-date software library of programs (over 1300 disks, with about 50 new disks added each month) for IBM-type personal computers, obtained from around the world. This library of shareware software is available only to Melb PC members and is supplied on new disks at very low prices.

An order form for this software is in every issue of **PC Update**.

Shareware registration

Much of the most popular software on Melb PC's Bulletin Board and in its software library is shareware, i.e. try free and pay only if you like and use it.

The club organises bulk shareware registrations, usually at a substantial discount.

Club-organised registrations also save members the costs of US-dollar bank drafts and overseas postage.



You owe it to yourself . . . Join or renew now !

MELB PC Membership Application Forward to Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia

Mr <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs <input type="checkbox"/>	Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr <input type="checkbox"/>	Other First Name:	Init:	Last Name:	Ref: 0497								
Home Postal Address				Member Number (if renewing)												
				Postcode	Country											
Telephone Numbers BH: ()		AH: ()														
Job Title																
Employer/Company Name *																
<small>* Attach list if more than one corporate representative, or more than one family member is being nominated with this application. Corporate members may change their representative(s) by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.</small>																
Type of Membership: <table> <tr> <td>New Member</td> <td>Renewal</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$60</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (extra family members—\$10 each)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$130</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$120 (extra representatives—\$60 each)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$50</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (Students must attach photocopy of student card or letter from educational institution confirming <i>full-time</i> student status.)</td> </tr> </table>									New Member	Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (extra family members—\$10 each)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$130	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120 (extra representatives—\$60 each)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (Students must attach photocopy of student card or letter from educational institution confirming <i>full-time</i> student status.)
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I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC User Group Inc and agree to abide by its rules while I remain a member.				Signature												
				Date	/	/										

Training order form

Course Title	Starting Date	Amount
Total:		

For membership application or renewal, or training orders, please use the remittance and/or credit card form on the next page.

Members' discounts

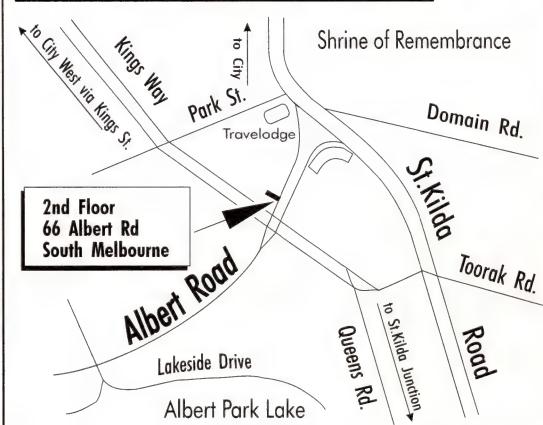
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The Editor
PC Update
PO Box 283
South Melbourne
VIC 3025

Your offer will then be listed in future issues of *PC Update*.

Organisation name:											
Membership number (if applicable)											
Suburb or location:											
Telephone:	()								
Facsimile:	()								
Discount:	<input type="checkbox"/> %										
Brief details of product/service(s) discounted:											

Melbourne PC User Group Locality Map



Top Choice Shareware

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in *PC Update* for up-to-date listings of other disks—use the lower part of this order form for your choice from those listings.

Shareware/PD Title	Melb No.	Format	Qty	Amount
Shareware Catalogue & New Member Disk	0000	3.5 / 5.25		
Graphics Workshop for DOS	8015	3.5		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 3.x	8064	3.5		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 95	8562	3.5		
Growit	8157	3.5		
List	1490	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee VirusScan for DOS	8018	3.5		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 3.x	(2-disk set)	8626/27	3.5	
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 95	(2-disk set)	8664/65	3.5	
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0	(3-disk set)	8110-12	3.5	
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235	3.5 / 5.25		
Real Audio Player for Windows 3.x	8364	3.5		
Real Audio Player for Windows 95	8592	3.5		
Telix for DOS	8062	3.5		
Telix for Windows v1.00	(2-disk set)	8129/30	3.5	
Wolfenstein Fights Street Fighter II	8012	3.5		
Melb PC Internet kits (special prices)				
Windows 3.x	@\$10 per set	(3-disk set)	8711-13	3.5
Windows 95	@\$20 per set	(6-disk set)	8714-19	3.5
				3.5 / 5.25
				3.5 / 5.25
				3.5 / 5.25
				3.5 / 5.25
				3.5 / 5.25
				3.5 / 5.25
				3.5 / 5.25
				3.5 / 5.25
Postage/Packing is included				
Costs: first disk (per order) \$5, second disk \$4, third and subsequent disks \$3 each				
Total:				
I am	<input type="checkbox"/> under 15 years of age	Signature:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> under 18 years of age			
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Total:

I am under 15 years of age
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Signature:

Brand/Size	Cost (Box of 10)	Number of boxes	Value
Memorex 5.25-inch HD (1.2 MB)	\$12.50		
Memorex 3.5-inch HD (1.44 MB)	\$15.00		
Generic preformatted 3.5-inch HD (1.44 MB)	\$5.00		
Postage and packing	\$5 per order		
Endorse a cheque or use the credit card authority below			Total:

Payment details/credit card authority. Forward to Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia

Name _____ **Member No.** _____

Home Postal Address

THE JOURNAL OF CLIMATE

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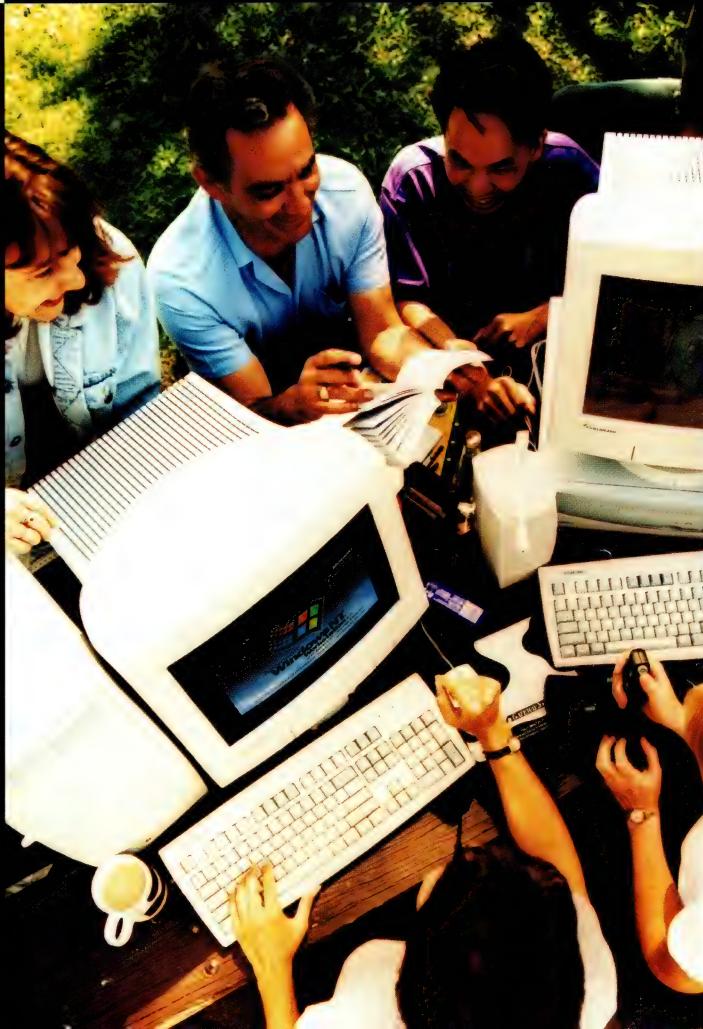
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- 12-Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 16-Bit Gateway Sound
- Altec™ Lansing Performance Amplified Speakers
- Newlook ATX Mini Tower Case
- 104-Key Windows 95 Keyboard
- Microsoft Mouse
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- 15" NI SVGA Digital Colour Monitor
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- 104-Key Windows 95 Keyboard
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C. Australian Educational Pack

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- Lifetime toll-free technical support for all PCs and operating systems.
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- Lithium-Ion Battery Pack & AC Pack
- PCMCIA Slots - 2 Type II or 1 Type III
- EZ Pad Pointing Device
- Integrated 16-Bit Sound with Stereo Speakers
- Stereo Headphone, Built-in Mic & Line-In Jacks
- Parallel, Serial, Infrared VGA & PS/2 Ports
- PCI Bus
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- EZ Pad Pointing Device
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- Stereo Headphone, Built-in Mic & Line-In Jacks
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- 2MB EDO Video RAM
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Colour Display
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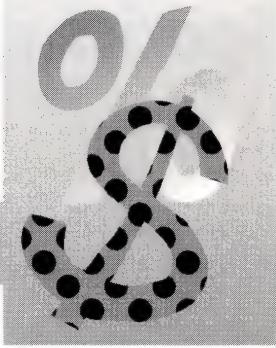
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Ph: (03) 9598 3186
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Kilsyth
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The Editor
PC Update
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South Melbourne
VIC 3025

Your offer will then be listed in future issues of *PC Update*.

Special interest group meetings

CLUB ACTIVITIES



Access (Database)

Ray Watson
(03) 9883 4382 AH
Fax: (03) 9576 9591
2nd Monday, 6.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Assembly & Other Languages

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9523 5400 AH
1st Thursday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Ballarat

Ken Smith
(03) 5332 7851 BH & AH
kensmith@giant.bnc.com.au
1st Thursday, 7.30 pm
(except school holidays)
Ballarat & Clarendon College
Junior School Campus
614 Mair St Ballarat

Basic

Andrew Callaway
(03) 9619 4067 BH
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Bendigo

Russell Collins
(03) 5439 3708
2nd Wednesday, 7.30 pm
Girton Grammar School
(Computer Room)
105 Mackenzie Street
Bendigo (Vine Street entrance)

C/C++ Programming

Ken Holmes
(03) 9583 1504 BH & AH
4th Monday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Clarion

Alan King
(03) 9882 8044 BH
4th Wednesday, 6.30 pm
Suite 9, 96 Camberwell Road
East Hawthorn
(Through wire gate and up the
stairs on the south-east side of
Roseberry St)

Communications

Philip Lew
(03) 9822 2998 BH
(Brief calls please)
2nd Wednesday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Daytime

Felix van Lier
Felixvl@melppc.org.au
(03) 9525 3962 BH & AH
Asst convener: Brian Taylor
2nd Thursday, 10.00 am
Melb PC SIG Room

East

Keith Lane
(03) 9762 6644 Anytime
(03) 9761 1414 Fax
keithln@melbpc.org.au
Asst convener: Stewart Tanner
(03) 9879 9776
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
Willis Room, Nunawading Office
of City of Whitehorse
379 Whitehorse Road,
Nunawading
(opposite Harvey Norman)

East Workshop

Aldo Pitre
(03) 9878 7959
aldop@melbpc.org.au
Asst convener: Ian Paterson
(03) 9755 2238
Ring for dates
Unit 11, 27-33 Rooks Road
Mitcham.
(Offices of Haldatec Pty Ltd.)

Freeware and Shareware

Doug Westcott
(03) 9898 2765 AH
dougw@melbpc.org.au
Co-convener: Tony James
3rd Tuesday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Graphics

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
Asst convener: Kevin Gorie
3rd Monday, 7.45 pm
We meet in the bungalow at the
rear of Nadish Naoroji's home,
8 Park Crescent
North Caulfield

Hardware

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9523 5400 AH
3rd Wednesday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Music

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
Asst convener: Eric Best
(03) 9646 6898 AH
2nd Thursday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

New Users, Central

Graham Paul
(03) 9417 5315 AH
3rd Monday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

New Users, East

Doug Brooke
(03) 9822 3458 BH & AH
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
St Mark's Anglican Church,
Cnr Canterbury & Burke Rds
Camberwell

OS/2

John Angelico
talldad@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9544 8792
4th Tuesday, 6.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Quicken

Viv Martin
martinvg@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9583 5372 AH
4th Thursday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Retired & Interested Persons

Ken Thomas
(03) 9803 6229 BH & AH
4th (not last) Friday, 10.00 am
Lutheran Church
25 Cypress Avenue
Glen Waverley

Turbo Pascal

Ross Hall
(03) 5428 6470 AH
(03) 9699 4000 BH
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

UNIX

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
3rd Thursday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Video Editing

Albert Vanzet
(03) 9439 1768
vanzet@melbpc.org.au
4th Monday, 7 pm
Michaels Camera Store
269 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne

Waffle

Vince Thornton
018 171 344 or
Andrew Callaway
(03) 9619 4067 BH
"Eat-ins" after monthly meeting.

Warragul

Gordon Ross
(03) 5623 5484 AH
1st Friday, 7.30 pm
Warragul Leisure Center
Function Room

Windows

Mikhail Bortolotto
(03) 9888 2360 AH
1st Monday, 7.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Word Processing/DTP

Lorraine Briggs
(03) 9563 6396 AH
014 693 882
lbriggs@melbpc.org.au
4th Friday, 7.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

The Blind Citizens Support Group meets at 7.45 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 1st Floor, 87 High Street, Prahran. For further details, please contact John Machin, on (03) 9569 1440 (BH).

SIG meeting reports

CLUB ACTIVITIES

coordinated by Keith Beresford



Ballarat

Ken Smith

In February we held our first meeting for the year, and despite the heat it was a great success. It was also our first time at the new venue of Ballarat and Clarendon College. The facilities are excellent and we look forward to a long and happy relationship with the school. Whilst the night was hot and the room very full, we were captivated by the presentation.

Our guest presenter in February was Cliff McCann who gave us an excellent insight into the concepts of desktop publishing. Cliff works professionally in this field and has a wealth of knowledge. He certainly gave us some very good advice, to avoid, if possible, the use of defaults. This, he said, created a sameness in document type and style.

His design instructions for logos were simple and effective, and show how little notice we take of what is staring us in the face. Thank you Cliff. We look forward to having you back to tell us more about this fascinating subject.

The subject for our 6 March meeting is Windows 95. Now that it's been in use for some time, we think it's a good idea to evaluate the pros and cons.

Other meetings this year will cover Graphics, Image Manipulation, Internet, CorelDraw! and maybe a Genealogy night. Locals keep an eye out for our ads in the Ballarat Courier on the Saturday prior to the meeting.

Bendigo

Russell Collins

The topic for our January meeting was the Internet. Our speaker was from a local service provider. In February we had a very interesting session on measurement of water ski jumps. The system—developed by local Melb PC member Tony Cunningham—uses a number of fixed video cameras, feeding through a video card in the computer to measure the jump from a frozen frame. Also visiting the February meeting were Melb PC President, Stan Johnstone, and Vice-President, Morris Tobias. They enlightened us about the latest Melb PC happenings and gave us some expert advice during our help session.

March brought us Tony Cox from the local Harvey Norman store, Tony has been involved in computer retailing in Bendigo for some time, so he gave us



Members of the Bendigo SIG at their February meeting.



Convenor Russell Collins, Stan Johnstone and Joe Henry at the February meeting of the Bendigo SIG.

an interesting insight into the marketplace.

For our April meeting we have lined up Tim Newbegin, the Archives Officer from LaTrobe University. Tim will talk to us about the history of databases as well as organisation and backing up of data.

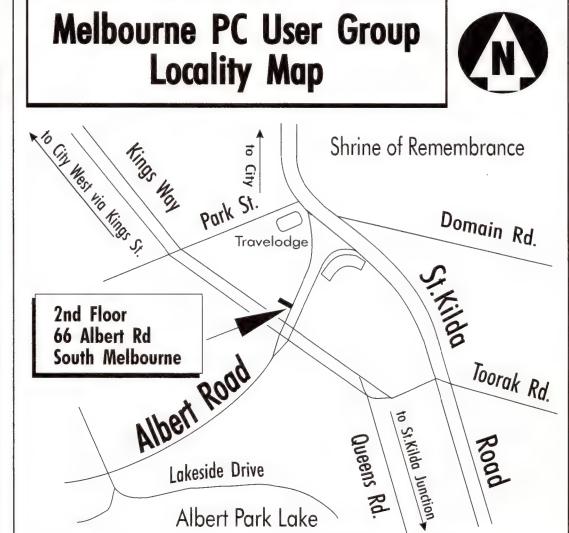
Don't forget this month it's time again to elect office bearers, those dedicated souls who give their time so that we may enjoy ourselves. We need your continued support. See you at the next meeting.

Meetings Calendar

(Check with SIG Convener when a SIG meeting falls on a Public or School Holiday)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First	Windows ‡		Main Monthly Meeting	Assembly & Other Languages ‡	
			Waffle	Ballarat	
Second	Access (Database) ‡	Basic/Turbo Pascal ‡ East New Users, East	Bendigo Communications ‡	Music ‡ Daytime ‡	
Third	Graphics New Users, Central ‡	Committee ‡ Freeware and Shareware ‡	Hardware ‡	UNIX ‡	
Fourth	C/C++ Programming ‡ Video Editing	OS/2 ‡	Clarion	Quicken ‡	Word Processing/DTP ‡ Retired and Interested Persons

Melbourne PC User Group Locality Map



‡ Many SIGs meet at Melb PC's premises, on the second floor at 66 Albert Road, South Melbourne.

Daytime SIG Report

Felix van Lier

At our February meeting Malcolm McClean spoke about how the Christmas treat games disk was prepared using RAMDRIVE.SYS as an MS-DOS file.

This can be used to create a temporary drive on current PCs with at least 4 MB RAM. Compressed files containing games were copied to the ramdrive and decompressed to various directories. Batch files on the disk enabled the games to be run from the ramdrive without using any hard disk space. This was a most interesting and useful experience. Notes on the preparation of the disk were distributed to members. Many thanks Malcolm.

At our April meeting, John Fitzsimons will be speaking about the Internet and related applications. Web browsing, e-mail, newsgroups, phone communication programs and utilities such as Hindsite, and the Acrobat PDF reader will be discussed. We expect a large attendance as communications always generates a lot of interest.

Looking further ahead, in May, George Skarbek—well known contributor to *The Age* computer section—has kindly accepted an invitation to conduct a question and answer session. This is your opportunity to get George's expert solutions to problems that plague you.

I am often asked, what is the Daytime SIG about? We are a group of members trying to improve our knowledge of computing. If we can help you to get rid of your frustrations we will be on the right track. So come and join us.

East

Margaret Brown

It was standing room only for our first meeting at our new venue, the Willis Room, Nunawading. How did we do it? Simple, we announced we would be having a demonstration of one of the hottest computer topics—multimedia via the Internet.

Keith Beresford's Tips and Tricks had something for almost everyone, from a housekeeping tidy-up of the 95 Desktop and Start Menu to a multi-disk ARJ program with a built-in batch file unarchiver. New users need not worry about the perils of copying DOS commands in the dark—Keith supplies handouts.

Question and answer sessions always produce an amazingly diverse array of problems. I like it when people stand to ask questions. That way you can recognise and find them at the break, to offer solutions or condolences. At the February meeting we really should have given a special door prize to the member brave enough to ask how he could reinstall a troublesome program without the demanded 900 clicks (his calculation,

not ours). Solutions were offered, we wait for the next instalment of the saga next month.

If a problem is too complex to resolve at the meeting, bring the offending computer to one of the monthly workshops. The people assisting do not present themselves as consultants, but their combined knowledge and experience can often resolve a difficulty. The workshops have become so popular that prior booking is necessary.

Do you have a favourite shareware program? This could be your big chance—come along, demonstrate it to the group and enjoy your 15 minutes of fame. If that does not appeal, bring it along anyway and somebody already famous (maybe Doug Westcott), can demonstrate it for you. Shareware authors expect to be paid for their efforts and deservedly so, but rely on as many users as possible viewing their work, so why not do them a favour and enjoy your own special moment at the same time.

We are hoping to review one shareware program each month, Doug showed us how it should be done at the February meeting when he demonstrated the latest version of WinZip. As most members will know, Doug is the convener of the Melb PC Shareware SIG.

Kerin Barry from Fast Track Windows Training brought along copies of her manuals for attendees to view. They feature basic step-by-step instructions for using the most popular word-processing and desktop publishing packages without the usual and often frustrating information overload.

Melb PC member, Beth Davis has a strong interest in genealogy and is willing to help with advice about research and any computer program that she is familiar with.

The main demonstration for the evening was multimedia on the Internet. Using some of the new tools, the demonstration explored the options to maximise the use of sound cards and multimedia.

Using the standard Windows 95 media player, first with music then video, we progressed to the Quicktime application, then to the CD player. Although each step was a little more complex, the direction was still one-way. MS Exchange reversed that, with voice e-mail, which can also include images. (A tip from an expert—a headset microphone with the unit close to your mouth, is a good way to avoid feedback.) Then a plug-in component added sound and movement, now we could control the image and choose the view.

Next we tried Internet Relay Chat with interactive text, sound and music—first delayed audio, then live. The next step was to add video. We connected to an Atlanta server and were offered a choice of several thousand chat groups. We saw Richard in Atlanta, who might have been

surprised to know that he was talking to and being seen by so many. Then someone in South Africa, named Mark, informed us that his system was freezing with unresolved conflicts, just before he dropped off the line.

We were also able to join a video conference session—in which several people from different locations were able to see and hear each other, all for the cost of a local call plus server charges.

There were, as expected, some technical limitations, but the possibilities were obvious and we enthusiastically voted to continue our exploration under more favourable conditions at a later hands-on session.

More Internet next month and a workshop the following Sunday.

OS/2

John Angelico

1997 SIG Convener, John Angelico, welcomed a small group of about a dozen OS/2 users to the first meeting on the new date (fourth Tuesday), including three new people and (by invitation) Stan Johnstone, President of the Melbourne PC User Group.

Main Presentation: *Small Business Productivity With OS/2.* Commenting on the position of OS/2 as a business oriented platform, and IBM's intention to focus on the business and corporate user, John Angelico proceeded to demonstrate that OS/2 is not only for the big corporates. A micro business of two people can successfully deploy a Warp Connect network of two workstations to run their operations.

John explained the distinction between operational, accounting and support systems and how OS/2 represents a highly robust, stable platform for interoperation of all three—especially if the systems incorporate a mix of DOS, Windows and OS/2 programs. The programs and facilities demonstrated were :

- PC-File v7: DBASE compatible database program (shareware).
- Pastel Accounting v4: Win 3.1/Win 95 multi-user accounting program (commercial)
- FaxWorks Pro v2 OS/2: Fax program with OCR (commercial).
- OS/2 native features: Internet Access Kit, Templates, Work Areas, Device Objects.

The President speaks: Stan Johnstone outlined some of the challenges facing Melb PC and the steps being taken to meet them. Attention quickly focused on the Internet, volume charges and BBS services (which are locally available, fast to download, free of additional charge and likely to be expanded).

Hardware We were presented with a particular hardware configuration and challenged to consider whether it was "Warp Ready." Once the lid came off

helpful comments and illustrative experiences were available aplenty, to the evident satisfaction of the owner of the system.

Open forum Questions emerged from earlier comments and lively discussion ensued on the future direction of Java, so-called "Network Computers" and independent object-oriented computing. We all appreciated the input of Nick McGuigan from IBM Melbourne.

March meeting: Tuesday 25 March 1997, 6.30 pm at the Melb PC Offices

Topic: Putting together an OS/2 network. We plan to have two stand-alone machines and demonstrate the installation of OS/2 Peer and connection of the two.

April meeting: Tuesday 22 April 1997, 6.30 pm at the Melb PC Offices

Topic: Programming Tools in OS/2 from shareware to mission critical applications.

Hardware day Plans are currently being made for a hardware day, probably in April or May. Please advise me on the BBS in the OS/2 Local message area or at talldad@pobox.com.au of any particular problems you want to resolve so we can plan ahead.

Retired and Interested Persons

Bill Cooney

I think I have worked out what draws so many people to our meetings. There were plenty of newcomers at the February meeting and as Ken welcomed them, he listed the sub-groups that make up our SIG. It was clear that no-one, from greenhorn to genius, could feel left out. Close to 150 people crowded the meeting room that day.

Congratulations to Henk Visser for getting the Win 95 group off to a good start. It seems that Billy's dream is going to be realised, if maybe a bit slower than he expected. More and more of the members are getting used to the idea and giving it a try. The Sysinfo group continues to thrive as they winkle out and share some of the experiences and clues which make their hobby easier and more fun. The Database group is currently compiling information about SIG members and their equipment and interests, so that the sharing philosophy can be more easily accessed by our members.

John Wain, from Modem Superstore, was our guest speaker at the February meeting. He gave us some very good and useful information, mentioning the possibility of 56 kbps modems this year and the wonder of what that would bring. A comment raised during the chat was the case of a user whose modem problems all disappeared when he moved to another area, suggesting that the cause had been in the local telephone exchange. John agreed that this could well be the case and suggested that Telstra was very cooperative in sorting out this sort of problems, when asked for the help.

Thanks John, we enjoyed the talk.

If you're looking for a group with a wide range of interest and a friendly approach, why not come along soon and sit in with us. You will be very welcome.

Turbo Pascal

Ross Hall

Among the topics discussed at the February Basic/Turbo Pascal SIG meeting were:

- Using Power Basic to create large fonts in DOS text mode to convey error messages.
- Standard rules for data entry under Windows.
- How to configure a Delphi data entry form so that common keyboard and mouse shortcuts can be implemented.
- Credit card numbers, how the type of card can be identified and the card validated.
- How to increase the legibility of tabular data using colours and different fonts.
- Converting BASICA files to text.
- Analog/Digital data capture boards—using Basic to read and write data to the board and solving I/O address conflicts.
- Allocation unit size problems with large capacity hard drives.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 April 1997. Hope to see you there.

Video Editing

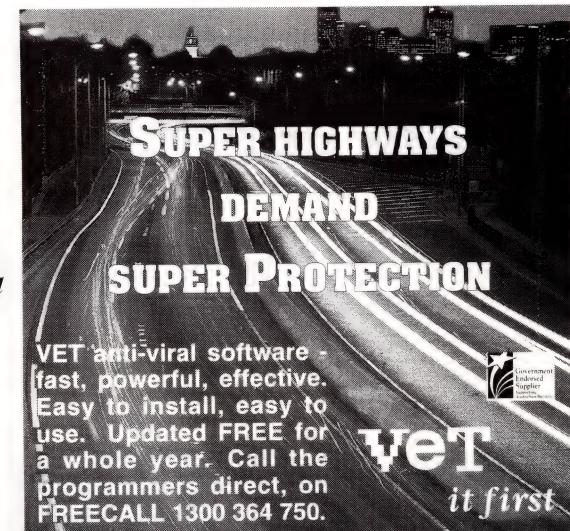
Albert Vanzet

The first PC Video Editing SIG meeting was a success, in fact the response was overwhelming. Forty-three members attended the first meeting, and even with extra chairs several members had to stand.

The enthusiastic response meant we wouldn't fit into the venue, Michael's Camera Store. So we decided to split the SIG into two groups. The first meeting was for members who have not yet started using their computers to edit video tapes and those who are using simple linear editing programs.

The second group, which has yet to meet, already has 20 members signed on. This group will be for members who are already using programs and hardware to compress video tapes onto hard disks, manipulate images and convert them back from digital to analogue onto VCR.

One could say the first group is for beginners and the second group for advanced video editors. However, as Warrick Morris (of Michael's Camera Store) showed us during our first meeting, linear editing can be comprehensive and satisfying. Warrick demonstrated two programs—both based on the ever popular *Video*



Director—that do not require vast amounts of computer memory. With *Video Director Home* you can define video clips you want to use, then drag and drop them in the order you want to use them. With the more comprehensive *Aver Video Director Suite* you also have the facility for titling, "picons" and some animation. This program is a big step up in computer video editing at an affordable price. Michael's training manager, Adrian Cook, also explained various PC video editing options, including pitfalls and costs.

On 24 March, we'll be seeing a non-linear program called *Bravado* in action. These first two meetings may help members who have been sitting on the fence between linear and non-linear editing decide on the video editing techniques to pursue. Since that meeting will be held during the delivery period for this, April issue of *PC Update*, those who have not already made plans to attend will find it too late to join our group that evening.

At our April meeting (7.00 pm 28 April, doors close at 7.00 pm sharp), we intend to go a bit deeper into the *Aver Video Director* program complete, with animation, sound manipulation and effects.

Unfortunately we cannot announce a date for the second video editing group ("non-linear.") We'll let you know as soon as we know, if you've already signed up for this group, we'll contact you personally with the information.

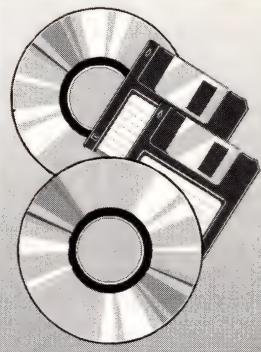
If the enthusiasm we saw at our first meeting continues, we can be sure of continued success. But with that success, comes concerns. If you have not already signed up for one or both groups, you should know that seats are limited. We may have to limit new attendees until vacancies occur.

Contact Albert Vanzet at (03) 9439 1768 or vanzet@melbpc.org.au or Derek Hampson at (03) 9853 2482. (Remember, booking is essential.) □

Shareware/Freeware library update

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

Glenn Webster



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* Canon BJC4000/4100/4200/4550-Blk.	BCI20/BCI21BK	4/30	\$45
* Canon BJC4000/4100/4200/4550 - Tricolour	BCI210C	10 of ea. Col.	\$45
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* Canon BJ30/C70 - Black	BCI11BK	30	\$35
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Epson Stylus Col./II/IIs/820/200-BLK	S020047	6	\$35
Epson Stylus Col./II/IIs/820 - Tricol.	S020049	4 of ea. Col.	\$45
Epson Stylus 1500 - Black	S020062	2	\$35
Epson Stylus 500 - Black	S020093	6	\$35
Epson Stylus 200/500 - Tricolour	S020097	4 of ea. Col.	\$45
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Updates

Melb 2420 RAR Archiver v2.00

RAR is an archiver which uses a new and original compression algorithm. This allows higher compression ratios than other PC archiving tools, especially on executable files, object libraries, large text files, etc. RAR contains 6 different methods of compressing files. It features a full-screen interface utilizing mouse and menus as well as the command line interface. RAR has the ability to manage non-RAR archives (ZIP, ARJ, and LZH). You may view, update, transform to self-extracting (SFX) archive, add and erase comments, etc. You can create multi-volume archives as SFX. Optionally, RAR will handle "solid" archives by treating all files together as a single data stream. This results in an archive that is significantly smaller than it would otherwise be. A freeware UNRAR utility (with source code) is provided. This version contains significant improvements to the general compression algorithm, a new "multimedia" compression method (intended primarily for compressing digital audio data and graphics (true colour bitmaps) and a data recovery facility. Password encryption has been improved. RAR determines the current CPU type and uses 386/486 CPU instruction code if possible. This version of RAR is compatible with previous releases and handles archives created by older versions of RAR. Regn is US\$35.

Melb 2473

Ant Run v3.0

Ant Run is a race against the clock as you rotate tunnels for an ant to run through. Quick thinking and fast reflexes are required to keep the ant scurrying through the ant hill passages. You can gain extra points for bonus tunnels and other objects as your ant tries to keep moving through the tunnels until it reaches a dead end. This version corrects some minor bugs. Ant Run requires a mouse and EGA/VGA graphics. Regn is US\$12.

Melb 2510

Hardware Catalog for Windows v4.2

Hardware Catalog for Windows is a program for cataloging your computer hardware in as much detail as you need. Entries include the serial number of the equipment, a telephone support number, type of item, manufacturer, etc. There is an unlimited number of entries possible, and these are automatically sorted. A similar format to a regular catalog book makes the program very easy-to-use. Searching can be done by any field, and the results can be printed.

This update contains a number of improvements to the program. Requires an 80286 or better processor, 2 MB of RAM and 400 KB of hard drive space. Regn is US\$15.

Melb 2519

Daily Notes for Windows v4.3

Daily Notes for Windows is a program similar to Phone Book for Windows, although it is designed to be used for writing notes during meetings or discussions. This program is very useful if you need to find your notes quickly, and you do not have time to search through piles and piles of hand written notes on odd-sized pieces of paper. The program also helps you to search these notes by date or subject, or to organise them into date or subject sequence. You can even print them to file away or to distribute to other people. It is excellent for laptops. This version contains some improvements to the program. It requires an 80286 or faster processor, 2 MB of RAM, 400 KB of free hard disk space and Windows 3.X or later. Regn is US\$15.

Melb 2545

MultiVu v2.1

MultiVu is a Microsoft Windows-hosted text file finder/viewer. MultiVu will run under Windows 3.1 and it is intended to be upward compatible to 32-bit versions as well. It has a number of powerful features which will make it a handy tool for technical professionals, business persons, in fact, all computer users who need to look at text files regularly in their work. Some of its features enable you to find text and files on a hard disk or network drive, view files up to 2 GB in size and browse the contents of compressed archives. You can view files in several modes, and you can load, print and search in the background, while browsing open files. Searches are lightning fast. You can launch the application associated with a document. This version has new features and improvements and fixes some minor bugs. MultiVu is compatible with Windows 3.x, Windows 95 and Windows NT. It requires Windows 3.x or later and 512 KB of RAM. Regn is US\$19.

Melb 2550

PC-Config v8.31

PC-CONFIG is a shareware System Information and Benchmark program for DOS that works with Windows 3.x and Windows 95. It detects all of the hardware in your PC and shows it on the screen. It can show ISA, EISA, MCA, VESA Local Bus and PCI mainboards, identify processor caches (and their size), CPUs, VGA chipsets and a variety of hard disk cache software. PC-CONFIG tests for hardware shadow-RAM for main and VGA BIOS,

identifies SCSI HD-controllers and their manufacturers, shows the physical parameters of ESDI hard disks and establishes the rotational speed of hard disks. It finds areas of memory of different speeds in the first megabyte and in extended memory. This update detects Pentium Processors with MMX technology, Pentium's with Voltage Reduction Technology (VRT), detection of the Intel Klamath CPU and fixes disk sizes for large hard disks. The registered version can identify the frame speed for VGA cards and speeds up Cyrix, TI and IBM CPUs by 5-10%, by activating the NegateLock pin. Requires an 80286 or later processor and DOS 3. Regn is US\$15 (student), US\$20 (standard) and US\$70 (commercial).

Melb 8002

Hypertext Virus Summary 9702

This program is revised regularly to make available up-to-date information on all known viruses. The hypertext format of the information presented enables quick reference to any virus, variant or related species. The program is now extensively cross-referenced. It can be navigated easily using the menus supplied. This revision covers more than 3718 viruses and variants. Registration for home use is US\$30. Other uses require a site license agreement.

Melb 8018

McAfee Virus Scan for DOS v3.0.0

This disk contains the McAfee Anti-Virus programs for DOS. It contains a detection and disinfection program (SCAN) which has been provided in an un-compressed form, so that the disk can be used, as supplied, to check your hard disk, prior to installation. Remember to write-protect this floppy disk before use. The scanning program has been

designed to check for pre-existing infections of known and unknown viruses on floppy, hard, CD-ROM and compressed disks on both stand-alone and networked PCs, and network file servers. Documentation is supplied on disk. VirusScan can decrypt execute-only macros, so that macro viruses that are distributed in source form and recompiled can be detected. VirusScan 3.0 provides fast scanning performance and exceptional virus detection rates with its new engine. It offers maximum defense against the newest threats to data. It detects all virus types, including Word and Excel macros, boot-sector, file, multi-partite, stealth, polymorphic and encrypted viruses. VirusScan for DOS requires an IBM-compatible computer with DOS 3.1 or later and at least 340 KB of free RAM. Regn is US\$65.

Melb 8026

McAfee Virus Scan for OS/2 v3.0.0

This disk contains the McAfee Anti-Virus detection and disinfection program (OS2SCAN). The programs on the disk have been provided in an un-compressed form so that the disk can be used, as supplied, to check your hard disk, prior to installation. Remember to write-protect this floppy disk before use. The scanning program has been designed to check for pre-existing infections of known and unknown viruses on floppy, hard, CD-ROM and compressed disks on both stand-alone and networked PCs, and network file servers. Since OS/2 operates in a protected mode environment OS2SCAN can only check its own area of memory or "memory image" for viruses. There is no constant TSR-type protection available in OS/2. The DOS/Windows version of VShield is included with OS2SCAN but it is only active while the system is running a DOS or Windows session. Documentation is sup-

plied on disk. VirusScan provides fast scanning performance and exceptional virus detection rates with its new engine. It offers maximum defense against the newest threats to data. It detects all virus types, including Word and Excel macros, boot-sector, file, multi-partite, stealth, polymorphic and encrypted viruses. VirusScan for OS/2 requires IBM OS/2 2.1 or later and at least 8 MB of RAM. Regn is US\$65.

Melb 8181-8182

(2-disk set)

Ralf Brown's Interrupt List r51

An interrupt is a hardware signal that tells the CPU to temporarily stop what it is doing and do something else. This is a comprehensive listing of over 8000 functions available through interrupt calls on IBM PCs and compatibles. It includes both documented and undocumented functions plus lists of I/O port, CMOS, and memory locations, and far-call entry points. A number of conversion programs are included. These can be used to create hypertext databases for a number of popular hypertext help systems such as Windows. Many of the lists and tables have been updated in this version.

Melb 8194-8195

Deep Space v5.5 (2-disk set)

Deep Space is a powerful star-mapping program that meets the most demanding needs of experienced observers, but it is also well suited to the needs of beginners. This shareware version is limited to about 3600 naked-eye stars, the Messier Catalog of deep sky objects, the current and recent comet files, data for the first 100 asteroids, and printer support for the HP Laserjet only. The registered version includes 19,000 stars, Postscript emulation for non-Postscript printers, and more. Deep Space can produce all-sky views for any day

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WANTED

Setup and diagnostic disk for IBM Model 80. Drivers and software for Hitachi CDR 1503S. Eric or Kerry (03) 5448 3401

An RLL disk drive 3.5-inch format, big as possible. Also where can I get a L4M047VA PAL memory chip for an Apricot XENi 386 computer. Other Apricot bits also of interest.

Mike (03) 9534 6412, ayers@melbpc.org.au

FREE

One ARCHIVEXL 40 MB tape drive with software and manuals. Works on slower older machines up to 16 MHz.

One Phillips Monochrome monitor and Hercules card. If I don't give them away I shall throw them away.

Mike (03) 9534 6412, ayers@melbpc.org.au



FOR SALE

The Missing Link, Windows software to interface Sharp Organizer to IBM PC. Allows you to backup, edit and print your data. Converts files to most popular applications (e.g. MS Schedule, Lotus Organizer). Compatible with IQ and most ZQ models. (Not suitable for Zaurus series.) Costs \$129, will sell for \$80.

Cable required to link Organizer to PC, is also available for \$60.

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and time, anywhere on earth. Selected portions of the sky can be chosen by constellation or coordinates. In this version the Almanac feature has been expanded to include a full-year daily moon phase calendar; the Milky Way is represented by two shades of blue on screen, and two shades of grey in printouts; and a horizon editor has been added. This means that you can associate a horizon file with each observing site. Deep Space runs entirely in conventional 640 KB memory. A math co-processor is optional but highly recommended on pre-486 systems. Regn is US\$89 (disk) and US\$129 (CD-ROM).

Melb 8197

Wordy v4.42

The Wordy package is a complete word study system for competitive players of Scrabble (tm). It contains a 100,701 word dictionary newly updated for the final release of the third edition of the OSPD (tm). It includes stand-alone SEARCH, ANAGRAM, XFIN, INSET, OFSET, XTRACT, UNSCRAMBLE, PREFIX, SUFFIX, and BINGO word list generating and letter-pattern matching utilities with wild card ("blank tile") support. A stand-alone practice word game gives players the chance to construct as many words as possible from a given set of letters within a three minute time limit. Entered words are checked "on the fly" against the included OSPD3-compatible dictionary and a cumulative record of play statistics is kept on disk. Wordy contains details of and support for 1DIF, a bold new Scrabble (tm) variant. This version includes updates to the master word list, some new utilities and a new menu interface for launching most of the utilities. Registered users receive a bonus list of 133,000 words over 8 letters long. Wordy requires an IBM PC or compatible with 640 KB of RAM and 1.5 MB of hard disk space. A colour monitor is recommended. Regn is US\$2.

Melb 8255

NoteWorthy Composer for Windows v1.30D

NoteWorthy Composer is a unique music composition and notation processor for Windows. It provides for the creation, play back, and printing of your own musical scores. It imports, and automatically notates, songs contained in standard MIDI files, thus enabling the play back and printing of existing song performances that you may have on your machine. It will also export your compositions to other MIDI applications, thus making your compositions easy to use in other applications. You can use the keyboard or the mouse for notation editing, selectively add or remove accents, slurs, staccato, beams, triplets and accidentals through tool bar buttons. The multi-level Undo/Redo feature makes music experimentation safe and easy during the composing process. Major features of this version include flatter menus for easier navigation and long filename support in Windows 95. Requires an 80386 processor, Windows 3.x, 3 MB of RAM, VGA graphics and a mouse. A sound card or MIDI port and a Windows-supported printer is recommended. Regn is US\$39.

Melb 8290

AsEasyAs v5.70D

AsEasyAs is an enhanced and refined Lotus 1-2-3 compatible spreadsheet program that supports 256 columns and 8192 rows. It has a broad range of formulas and functions, including user-defined functions. AsEasyAs uses expanded or virtual memory and allows multiple views of the work sheet. It is fully mouse compatible and can print combined text and graphics on the one page. It can plot functions, not just discrete data. Other features include Linear Programming, a Menu Configuration program, Multi-variate Regression (up to three independent variables), External User Functions, a 3D Graph Type (Contour), Colour Attributes for ranges

of cells, and Colour Printer Drivers for the HP Deskjet 5xx series and the Panasonic KX-Pxxx series printers with the colour option. The 110-page manual on disk provides details of the many features of this program. This version contains modifications to the PostScript printer driver, the macro command parser, the Graph printing module and the cell protection scheme. There are new macros and numerous changes and corrections also. AsEasyAs will run on older PCs and laptops without hard disks (single 720 KB floppy minimum). It requires an 80286 or later processor, DOS 3.1, 512 KB of RAM, 2 MB of expanded RAM and 1.2 MB of hard disk space. It has extensive support for many dot matrix and Laserjet printers and it supports many graphics cards. AsEasyAs will run as a DOS application under Windows 3.0 or later. A mouse is optional. Regn is US\$69.

Melb 8327 Household Register v5.10

Household Register for Windows is a fully-featured program that you can use to organize and manage a detailed inventory of your possessions. It's ideal for both home and office. The program tracks item, location, category, owner, serial#, model#, description, purchase/replace price, warranty (and extended warranty) information, appraisal information and a 32,000 character memo field. Other features include an enhanced browse window and a query wizard. You can backup/restore your data files to/from floppies using compression (spanning multiple floppy disks if needed), and import/export your data in dBase and ASCII format. The Report Writer enables you to create, store and recall user definable reports, as well as select fields, totals, sort sequences, breaks and filters. This major upgrade adds the Report Writer; dBase Import/Export; Backup/Restore and the Query Wizard. It requires an 80386 or better processor, Windows 3.x/95/NT, 4 MB of RAM (8 MB recommended) and about 3 MB of free hard disk space. Regn is US\$25.

Melb 8330 Intelligent Organ/Synthesizer for Windows v2.0

Now you can click your way to stardom. This program claims to be the first organ to offer features such as 127 instrument/voice selection, volume control, octave control, and both recording and playback capability. The auto playback feature makes it look like someone is actually playing! This organ works like a CASIO keyboard but easier! Full help is included. It requires Windows 3.x or later, DOS 3.3 or later, 750 KB of free hard disk space and a sound card with MIDI support and MIDI drivers. Regn is US\$12.

Melb 8473 Four Seasons Solitaire v1.09

Four Seasons is a Windows-based solitaire card game (also known as "Corner Card", "Four Corners", and "Vanishing Cross"). It is addictive and fully-featured with multimedia (MIDI) sound effects and music, 3-level undo, an auto mode, card peeking and challenge scoring. This version provides a re-sizeable main window, context-sensitive help and an updated interface. Requires an 80386 or later processor, Windows 3.x or later, VGA graphics, a mouse and a Windows-compatible sound card. The registered version includes a bonus pack of extra sound effects. Regn is US\$10.

Melb 8497 APD organiser with Caller-ID v1.53

APD Organizer with Caller-ID is an integrated Telephony and Personal Information Management (PIM) windows package that provides automatic display of a caller's detailed record with a distinct sound when the phone rings. The software works

with many caller ID capable modems and APD serial caller ID device. Although caller ID is not available in this country, this program offers complete Time & Contact management features, such as a phone book, call log, todo's with carry-over, appointments with reminder and recurring options, time chart, calendars, many colour reports, letters, notes and envelope printing for single and groups of selected contacts. It also has a powerful global search engine that can search on any key word or text string. Call transactions are logged in detail with duration, time, date, answered or not answered, call notes, called and calling number. In addition, APD Organizer can also generate detailed call reports so that you can charge your clients for phone consultation. The program is extremely easy to use with many drag and drop features. It could be very useful for home/small offices. This version fixes the duplication of notes in phonebook records. Requires an 80386 processor, Windows 3.x or later, 4 MB of RAM, 4 MB of hard disk space, VGA graphics, a mouse and a serial port. Regn is US\$30.

Melb 8517

SkedEzy v1.61

SkedEzy is an intelligent Windows scheduler which sounds an alarm and pops up reminders. Reminder messages can be set to pop up either just once, or at regular intervals. Events that fall due when the PC is turned off will pop up within a minute after you next turn on the PC, so messages are not missed. You can specify the date, time and recurrence period in any way, including plain English, and you can use minutes, hours, days, weeks, etc. SkedEzy is very tolerant of abbreviations and punctuation. It would be a useful utility for work or home. This version contains updates to the documentation. SkedEzy will run under Windows 3.x, Windows 95 and IBM OS/2. It requires an 80386 processor, Windows 3.x, 1 MB of RAM and 1 MB of hard disk space. Regn is A\$34.

Melb 8594

Owl Basic Bookkeeping v4.4W (for Windows)

Basic Bookkeeping provides organised and accurate accounting using the "single-entry" bookkeeping method. This method is easy to use and is especially suited to small businesses and individuals. BBK can handle up to 1000 different expense types and supports both calendar and fiscal year accounting. Its accounting folders allow independent bookkeeping for multiple businesses or multiple business elements within the same business. You don't need to be an accountant to use this program. By spending just a few minutes a week you can dramatically reduce your accounting costs. Give your accountant comprehensive reports that will save his/her time and your money, instead of a shoe box full of receipts. This version adds help icons to many screens. Owl Basic Bookkeeping requires Windows 3.x or later, 4 MB of RAM and 1.5 MB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$39.

Melb 8642 The Graphics Factory v2.1

The Graphics Factory (from Kamyan Software) creates textures, designs, backgrounds, repeatable tiles, landscapes and more. This Windows program uses advanced algorithms and procedures such as noise, turbulence, magnetics and life, to work its graphic magic. There are over thirty drawing types including lines, boxes, pixels storm, sphere and fractals, and more than forty effects such as wave, transparency, filters and sphere projection and jitter. This version has more colour boxes and interactive controls, and fixes some minor problems relating to the saving of modules. Requires Windows 3.1 or later and a mouse. A High-Colour or True-Colour video card is recommended. Regn is US\$39.

Melb 8747**K-Chess v2.2 (DOS/Windows)**

K-Chess is an instructional chess program which shows its own calculations on screen as it works, helping you to play better. It shows where a piece can move, and what pieces threaten a square. It can offer suggested moves, or it can make a move for you. Best lines of attack are displayed for both players several moves ahead. Any move can be taken back, or replayed right back to the start of the game. K-Chess provides play between two players, a player and the computer, or the computer against itself. It has full keyboard and mouse control, context-sensitive online help, and several types of hints. Games can be printed and saved. This disk contains a DOS version and a Windows version. The DOS version requires an 8088 or later processor, DOS 3.0 and 512 KB of RAM. The Windows version requires an 80286 or later processor, Windows 3.x and 1 MB of RAM. Registration is A\$25 for either version. Disk Melb 2497, which contained the DOS version only, has been deleted.

New disks**Melb 2595****Intermediate English Tutor v3.1**

Intermediate English Computer Tutor (IECT) is a tutorial that interactively teaches you the tricky parts of the English language. The program is useful for those who know the language and yet find certain aspects of it somewhat puzzling. IECT highlights many of these hard aspects and improves your speech and writing skills. It requires DOS 3.1+ and 500 KB of free hard disk space. Regn is US\$66.

Melb 2596

Tables Tutor is an interactive multimedia learning program for teaching young children about multiplication tables. This program takes full advantages of the Windows operating system to provide spoken dialogue and visually stimulating graphics. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 3.1 or later and a Windows compatible sound card.

Melb 2597**SpchComp V2.2
(Speech Compression Utility)**

SpchComp is a compression utility for human speech, recorded in the Windows PCM-WAV format. The compression ratio is about 25:1, or 4% of the original size. A PCM-WAV file of size 25 KB, for example, will therefore be reduced to 1 KB. The compression speed for a given file greatly depends on the power of the processor. A typical DX2-66 needs (in the "best quality" setting) about 11 seconds for one second of speech. File decompression rates are however better than real-time even on a slow 80486. SpchComp requires an 80486 or faster processor, Windows 3.1 or later, 4 MB of RAM and a 16-bit sound card.

Melb 2598**Power Words v2.3**

Power Words contains over 4000 of the most incisive and humorous quotes, aphorisms, witticisms and quips compressed into a single program file. Searching is lightning fast because all of the entries are held in memory, so no time-consuming disk access is necessary. Press a key to send quotes to your printer or to a text file on disk. Requires DOS 3.0 or later. Regn is A\$15.

Tables Tutor**Melb 8748**

QuikRef allows you to create Multi-media HyperText Lists with up to 1500 Buttons. Each Button can call up a Graphic or a Voice or Music file or Text Information. User defined .DEF file gives total control of the presentation. It is useful for glossaries, teaching and training drills, look-up lists of technical terms and more. It is compatible with Windows Sound System and Sound Blaster sound cards. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, a VGA or better graphics card and monitor and a Sound Blaster or Windows Sound System sound card for utilising audio. Regn is US\$25.

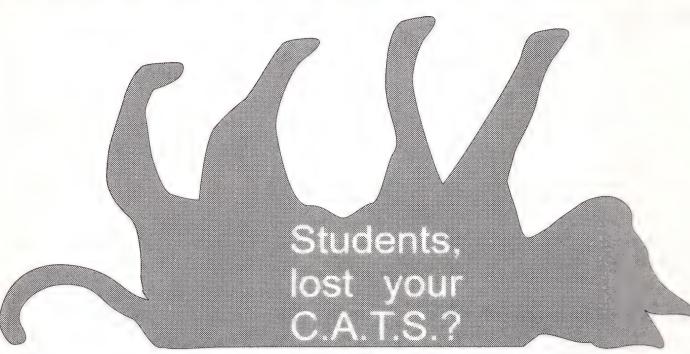
Melb 8749 Crossword Compiler v3.1

Crossword Compiler is a WYSIWIG puzzle design editor with two typing directions for puzzles up to 39x39 blocks. An autofind facility to find words to fit in the puzzle, with a list of possible words pops up with a single mouse click. You can even perform multiple word list searches. There is automatic grid filling to fill in blank crosswords, or it can try to find a word to fit around the existing letters, an it also includes a multi-word anagram finder to help writing cryptic clues. The program also features extensive context sensitive help, as well as many more features in the program. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, 3 MB of RAM, Windows 3.x or Windows 95. Regn is US\$45.

Melb 8750**Word Wrestle 95 v1.1**

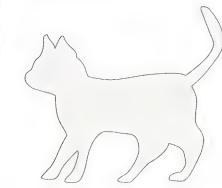
Word Wrestle is a new computer word game for the whole family similar to the popular Boggle(tm) game. Word Wrestle comes with an unlimited number of puzzle possibilities. Play the game right on the computer or print out puzzle to compete

REVIVE YOUR DEAD C.A.T.S.

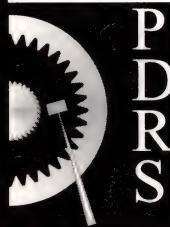


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against family members, friends or neighbours. Find as many words as you can in the puzzle grid within the amount of time you specify. To form words, the first letter must touch the following letter, and so on. They may be connected vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, just so long as they touch. Requires Windows 95 or later and a video card and monitor capable of displaying 256 colours. Regn is US\$18.

Melb 8751

WebPen Pro HTML and WWW Editor v3.20

WebPen Pro HTML web editor is an easy-to-use authoring tool that simplifies the creation of web home pages. The program contains special functions for tables, mail-to forms, frames, coloured bullets, e-mail, copyright notices, author's signature, background options, off-line viewing and an OLE-link to Word's spelling checker. This Professional version includes WinCopy screen capture, GifWeb transparent GIF backgrounds, Hotspots and Imagemap Tools. It requires an 80286 or faster processor, Windows 3.x or later and 1 MB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$39.

Melb 8752

Someplace PIM v1.00

Someplace is a Personal Information Manager which provides a place to keep odds and ends that don't fit neatly into a file cabinet or traditional database program. The program features quick searches, phone dialing and web linking. It can even launch other programs to retrieve related data. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM and Windows 95 or later. Regn is US\$15.

Melb 8753

A Musical Tutorial for DOS v1.30

Melb 8754-8755 A Musical Tutorial for Windows 95 v1.50 (2-disk set)

A Musical Tutorial is an excellent way to promote and encourage musical study using a graphically-oriented environment. Study is concentrated on treble/bass note and chord sight reading, association of notes to piano keys, a chord dictionary and a musical game. You can play, view and print scales, chords and triads, create intervals, ear tests, key signatures, etc. You can also print sight reading test papers. The program also keeps a user log. The tutorial has been designed to make music lessons fun for both children and adults. The DOS version requires an 8088 processor, DOS 3.0, VGA graphics, 384 KB of RAM and 350 KB of hard disk space. The Windows 95 version requires an 80386 or later processor, Windows 95, 4 MB of RAM, 3 MB of hard disk space and VGA or better graphics. Registration is US\$25 for either version. A Windows 3.x version of Musical Tutorial is available on disk Melb 8500.

Melb 8756

Choices for Windows

Choices is a program for authoring and presenting multiple-choice quizzes. A teacher can author quizzes which students can then do on the computer. Quizzes may include hints for the student in response to wrong answers. The student may do a quiz with the hints enabled, or as a timed test. A percentage score is provided at the end. Requires Windows 3.x or higher, 500 KB of hard disk space and a mouse.

Melb 8757

Hulbert's Computer Upgrade Center v1.0

Have you ever wanted to know about the inside of your computer? Or how to upgrade your own machine by adding a CD-ROM drive, RAM or a Printer? Then let Hulbert teach you how to upgrade your

own computer using animation, graphics and easy to follow instructions. Requires Windows 3.1+, 5 MB of hard disk space and a mouse. Regn is US\$15.

Melb 8758

Vulcan Notes 95 v2.13

Vulcan Notes (Yellow Sticky Notes for Windows) brings you one step closer to the paperless office/home. It is very fast, handy and simple to use. You can generate up to 100 virtual "sticky notes" on your screen. Each note can include an alarm with repeat settings. Notes open up to a large size, making them useful as a clipboard enhancement, or to store odd pieces of information. A find/replace facility is included. Vulcan Notes is very fast, handy and simple to use. Other features include rich-text editing, find/replace and floating notes. It is the perfect reminding tool that will increase your productivity. It requires an 80386 or better processor, Windows 95/NT, 4 MB of Extended RAM and 600 KB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$20. A Windows 3.x version of Vulcan Notes is available on disk Melb 8518.

Melb 8759

CD/Spectrum Pro v2.2

CD/Spectrum Pro is a 32-bit shareware CD-Audio Player with a Graphical Spectrum Analyzer for Windows 95 and NT 4.0. CD/Spectrum Pro has two independent parts: The CD-Audio player and the spectrum analyzer. The CD-Audio player has almost every feature you can find on any software CD player—programmed mode, intro mode, optional taskbar icon operation, auto-play, auto-exit, auto-eject, artist/track/title database, etc. It also recognizes CDP files which can save you from typing in all the track/title information for your CDs. The spectrum analyzer graphically depicts the frequency spectra of the CD music in real time. You may use either or both of the components without effect on the other. In other words, if you don't like the CD player, you can close it and use only the spectrum analyzer, or the other way around. Requires an 80486 or faster processor, Windows 95/NT 4.0 and a properly configured CD player and Sound Card. For exact real time graphics in the spectrum analyser, a Pentium processor is recommended.

Melb 8760 Dialog for Windows v3.49

DialoG is a Windows phone Dialer and call logger which is extremely easy to use. The program allows you to select between tone or pulse dialing. A speed dialer is included and the program can log incoming calls. It allows you to dial special Tone-Dial services. The program also features a 6-city world clock, appointment book, password protection and auto-redial. DialoG requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, 1 MB of hard disk space and Windows 3.1 or later. Regn is US\$19.

Melb 8761 ExeSpy for Windows 95 v4.0

ExeSpy can be very useful when you add programs to your Windows 95 system. As many DLLs, VBXs, etc are shared by software developed by different companies, some installations just replace whatever you have on your hard disk with whatever they put on their shipping disks without first doing version checking and so on. That then causes other applications to break. ExeSpy can tell you what modules an application is trying to load and its success or failure in loading these modules. ExeSpy can also act as a reverse-engineering assistant. Have you ever wondered what is happening behind the scenes when you start a Windows application? ExeSpy tells you what happens when an application starts—what gets loaded, how windows controls are created, etc. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM and Windows 95 or later. Regn is US\$130.

Melb 8762

PC-Timeclock v1.2

PC-Timeclock is a program designed to track and report your computer usage by project and/or category. PC-TimeClock can help you with client billing, and can also save you money at tax time by reporting how much of your computer use was for business purposes. It requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 3.1 or later and 1 MB of RAM. Regn is US\$18.

Melb 8763 DAUB Dynamic Brush v2.00

Whether you are a dabbler or a professional graphic artist, you need to have a look at DAUB. This unique calligraphic Windows program offers ease of use and high quality output, at a fraction of the cost of other vector based graphics programs. Its novel method of drawing and altering previously drawn 'brush strokes' results in stunning graphics that would be hard to reproduce exactly using any other package. Features include scaling in x and y directions, rotations, flipping, changing brush width, colour and orientation as you draw, altering previously drawn strokes in accordance with stroke length, curvature, slope etc. A unique feature is the smoothing function which can transform shaky hand input into beautifully smooth and flowing brush strokes on the screen. All the above can be performed on groups of strokes as well as individual strokes. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 3.1 or later, 1 MB of RAM and 1.5 MB of hard disk space. Regn is A\$70.

Melb 8764

Free Brush v1.1

Free Brush is a paint program for Windows 3.x and Windows 95. Instead of drawing with solid colours or simple patterns, your brushes are full colour pictures in themselves. Numerous features such as multiple drawing modes, four tiling modes, special effects and manipulations allow you to create incredible. Free Brush can load in most popular picture formats (BMP, DIB, GIF, JIF, JPG, PCX, PNG, RLE, TGA, TIF, WMF and WPG) as either brushes or pictures. Pictures and brushes can be stretched or squeezed to various sizes. Your brushes and finished work can be saved as a BMP picture (so you can export it to another program) or printed directly to most colour or B/W printers in portrait or landscape orientation. Online help and tips are provided, as well as more than 60 full colour brushes and pictures to get you started. Requires an 80486 or faster processor, Windows 3.x/95 or later and 8 MB of RAM. Regn is free.

Melb 8765

Jorj v9606

Jorj (George) is an English language dictionary for use on IBM PCs and clones. It may be used as a stand-alone program or as a TSR called with a hotkey. The database has more than 50,000 words, each of which contains a definition, the syllabication and the inflected forms of the words. Jorj features a single large database enabling browsing and scanning for words. Requires an 80286 or faster, 1 MB of RAM and 1.3 MB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$25.

Melb 8766 PrimaSoft Text (16-bit) v1.00

PrimaSoft Text is a simple utility that will help you avoid typing in the same text over and over again. The program will enable you to organise various pieces of text by assigning names to text items and grouping them into categories. This means that you can quickly access the memorized text items and copy them into other documents. You can copy the system date and time in a variety of formats also. Requires an 80386 processor, DOS 3.0, 4 MB of RAM and 4 MB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$15. A 32-bit version of this program is available on disk Melb 8654. □

APCUG/Comdex 96

VENDOR PRESENTATIONS

Carol Daniels



In the February issue of *PC Update*, I wrote about some of the outcomes from the 1996 autumn APCUG conference, finishing that report with a comment about the remainder of the week being spent in a hectic schedule of visits to one of the three Comdex venues and various special presentations that had been organised by APCUG for the benefit of some of the conference sponsors. Back in early 1996, Stan Johnstone had remarked that this segment of his trip (APCUG/Comdex 1995) had been like going to three monthly meetings a day for a week running. Little did I know that this

was a case of Stan's flair for understatement. It's not just the hectic pace that makes this concentrated dose of new product presentations so exhausting, it's also the calibre and commitment of the presenters.

There's just nothing to compare to

- Hearing PowerQuest President, Eric Ruff describe the ordeal that led to the development of PartitionMagic
- Listening to the Symantec President and CEO Gordon Eubanks' insights into changes in the computer industry and in the population of computer users, and how user groups can capitalise on these changes.
- Seeing the grand plan behind the changes at Corel Corporation as envisaged by the President and CEO of Corel Corporation, Dr Michael Cowpland, himself.

And that's not all...

The products were fascinating, the demonstrations sometimes took our breath away, but even more important was the willingness of these industry leaders to share their experiences, plans and dreams for their companies. Their candid answers to questions about their companies and products as well as the challenges they had faced in the nineties (and those they expected to confront in the twenty-first century) gave us a better perspective of the software industry, but also the many possible future paths for user groups.

Here are a few highlights from that frenzied week of product launches and demonstrations

- We heard about the latest bells and whistles in the newly released OS/2 Warp 4—from the lead architect in the OS/2 development team. The OS/2 contingent at the APCUG conference was in its glory. There was applause for new features, and laughs at in jokes. But even for those of us that had never used OS/2, this was a fascinating presentation, a rare chance to hear about the development of an operating system from the inside.
- Lotus Development launched SmartSuite 97 at Fall Comdex 96. The rest of the 250,000 attendees had to be

satisfied with standing in clusters listening to standard presentations on a crowded and noisy show floor. We had a custom presentation on an infinitely customisable software suite. I was especially impressed with the extreme degree of interoperability in the various suite components. Imagine inserting a 1-2-3 spreadsheet into a word processing document you are creating in Word Pro (SmartSuite's word-processing program) and immediately having access to every spreadsheet function, without opening the spreadsheet program and without leaving your word processing program.

- Gordon Eubanks inspired us all with his description of how Symantec was redefining the company and its products to meet the changing needs of changing computer users (and their evolving computer systems). Now you don't need to be a certified A-1 geek to benefit from Symantec's utilities, a new range of products caters for users from the greenest newbie to the most jaded guru, and everyone in between.
- We were rolling in the aisles as PowerQuest's President, Eric Ruff entertained us with the saga of his attempts to partition a hard drive to accommodate a second operating system—the old way. Dramatised, the story would have held its own with classic *Mister Bean* episodes. The process took the better part of a weekend, and eventually led to the development of PartitionMagic.

Then Gene Barlow took the stage and showed us PartitionMagic and "hard disk partitioning on the fly." PowerQuest released v3 at Comdex 96, with a host of improvements and added capabilities to improve on the already successful earlier versions. As Gene briefly described different types of partitions and the three main reasons you might want (or need) to partition your hard drive (to reclaim wasted hard disk space, run multiple operating systems safely and easily, to organise and protect your data) he did a little dragging and a little dropping. Then, with a click here and a click there, presto! Gene had done what it had

IBM

Lotus

Symantec

PowerQuest

Quicken

Corel

Intel

taken Eric days to accomplish (the old way) in minutes, the PartitionMagic way.

Although Eric won't be with him, Gene Barlow will be our special guest at the April meeting, where he will present the latest version of PartitionMagic. Don't miss this meeting, you'll kick yourself if you do.

- Another major product released at Comdex was Corel Draw 7. Ash and I had been treated to a sneak preview in Melbourne the previous month, so there were no surprises there. The demonstration was impressive, nevertheless. Then we got the vision, a glimpse of the big picture straight from the source, as Dr Michael Cowpland, President and CEO of Corel Corporation talked us through his plans for the future. As editor of *PC Update*, I get all of Corel's press releases (one of the perks of the role). But when a company is as large, active and diversified as Corel, it's not always easy to visualise the plan, when you get your information in dribs and drabs. After Dr Cowpland's presentation, we all had a good idea of how all the parts of the puzzle fit together in Corel's grand plan.
- It wasn't that long ago that Intuit did the impossible. Quicken made it easy to keep track of household finances and collect information for your yearly tax ordeal. Intuit has been building on this success ever since. Quicken (and its siblings) is still making what used to be impossible, easy and fun. But what would you expect from a company that calls its user group support specialist, "User Group Evangelist." Fair dinkum! It's on his business card.

Richard Katz, holder of the above, official evangelical title, was joined by his non-identical, non-fraternal brother (in spirit), Matt McCann from Parson's Technology. Parson's Technology is a wholly owned subsidiary of Intuit. If anyone is Richard's match for entertaining and enlightening at the same time, it's Matt. Some of Parson's Technology's products are reviewed in this and the next couple of issues, but not the one Matt told us about

that day, "Atomic Clock." I won't spoil it by trying to tell you what it is or does, because we're hoping that Matt and Richard make it downunder soon, if not this year, maybe next. Then you can here it directly from Matt.

- I missed the Starfish Software presentation but my absence was for a good cause. I was having a private demonstration of what Intel had been up to—in short, a lot! Although the idea of surfing the web while I watch TV has never grabbed me, being able to watch TV, while I work on my computer has definite appeal. And that's what Intel and the InterCast Industry Group are doing with InterCast.

With InterCast you receive normal programming from one of several cable channels (such as CNN) and supplemental HTML-formatted Web pages that provide



*Intuit's Richard Katz,
"User Group Evangelist."*

in-depth or background material on important events, all while you're working on that article for *PC Update*. Well not quite, InterCast isn't available in Australia (yet). You can customise your viewing too, by flagging key words you can have InterCast tuned to CNN in the background and it will automatically enlarge a window and increase the volume when the key word is mentioned. (It also works in reverse, you can flag other key words to automatically minimise the window and turn the volume down to zero.)

The demo of Intel's ProShare ISDN video, audio and data conferencing system was pretty nifty too. It's fully compliant with international telecommunications standards and can communicate with other systems that also comply with international standards. Just in case it's not clear, ProShare enables multipoint video conferencing with audio, video and data sharing, on a single ISDN line. But that's not all. I also had a sneak preview of the mobile video conferencing solution, which Intel has developed with Toshiba. Also pretty nifty. But there's more...I also had a glimpse of the future, with the mobile audio, video and data conferencing product, set to be available before the end of 1997, and all of it over standard telephone lines, with a DSV (digital simultaneous voice and data) capable modem. I believe standards in this area are still in development, so I wouldn't rush out to get one (actually two, since both computers participating in the conference need modems with the same capability) next month, but with Intel in the picture, the push for standards may have a little extra grunt.

- There was a time when Bill Gates made a point of visiting the APCUG conference, but no longer. In 1996 he spoke to the multitudes or the select few. APCUG delegates did get invited to the launch of Office 97. It was a standing-room-only affair, followed by a range of special presentations. For APCUG the Mindshare team (Microsoft's user group support specialists) did a demonstration of the newly launched Windows CE (which Ash wrote about in *PC Update*, February 1997). After the presentation members of the Windows CE development team joined us. APCUG alpha-geeks were in seventh heaven. There was more, too, the latest from Adobe and Fractal Design, but time and space are limited—so that's all, folks. □

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Cybec Vet 9.2

SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bob Burt



In the competitive world of specialised software, there is usually a rather select group of programs which gain popularity. This is particularly true of virus-detection/eradication programs, for several very good reasons. First, reliable detection and elimination of a virus is a serious matter, particularly for business enterprises. A program that fails to detect the vast majority of such invasions will certainly not become popular. Second, with the continuing appearance of new viruses and new methods of attack, any company wishing to establish a place in this market must be prepared to continually update its product to meet the new challenges. Third, the company must be prepared to provide an advisory service which can deal promptly with its clients' problems. On all three counts, the product *Vet*, by Cybec, is a healthy contestant.

Vet is supplied in various versions to operate under DOS, Windows 3.1x and Windows 95. It is also available as *Vet_Net* (Ver 9.10) and *Vet* for Windows NT Server. The comments I make will refer specifically to the Win 95 version, simply because that is the system that I normally use. The Windows 95 version is on its own disk, but if you are running Windows 3.1x you will find that one disk provides both the DOS and the Windows 3.1x versions.

Installation

Vet is installed in its own subdirectory and consists of around 30 files, using a modest 1 MB or so of hard disk space. You are given the opportunity, during installation, to prepare a boot-up disk and you would, of course, be wise to follow this suggestion. That disk holds copies of the essential *Vet* programs.

Virus protection

Vet has the capacity to detect virtually all PC viruses and will automatically remove almost all boot sector viruses. It will recover files infected with all the common viruses.

VET-RES is the resident portion of the program, which works unobtrusively in the background. You have control of the options which it can provide, by calling up *VET* and working through the Options on offer via its menu.

These are essentially

- Scan Type—*A Fast Scan*, the default setting, which examines the entry point and selected areas of the files and *Full Scan*, which examines every byte of the file and is, of course, markedly slower
- Replacing Boot Sector—select one of three sets of conditions—when a *Known Virus* is detected (the default), when a *Known Virus or Invalid Sector* is found or when a *Known or Unknown or Invalid Sector* is found

Vet, by Cybec,

is a healthy

contestant

- Monitoring Files—control which file events *VET-RES* will monitor (any or all)—*Executing, Opening, Closing, Moving or Renaming* files may be selected. By default, *Vet* scans MS Word document (DOC) and template (DOT) files for Winword Macro viruses. There is also a free-standing program, *VETMACRO.EXE*, on the disk, but this is not copied to the *Vet* directory.

Cleaning of Excel Macro viruses is undertaken separately by starting Excel, selecting the file *VET.XLS* from the *Vet* directory and following the instructions that are generated. This detects the Laroux Macro virus in selected XLS files and, if found, removes it.

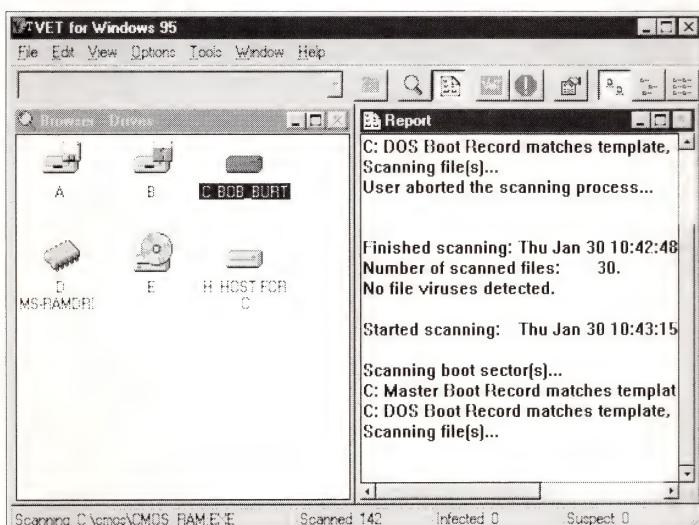


Figure 1.

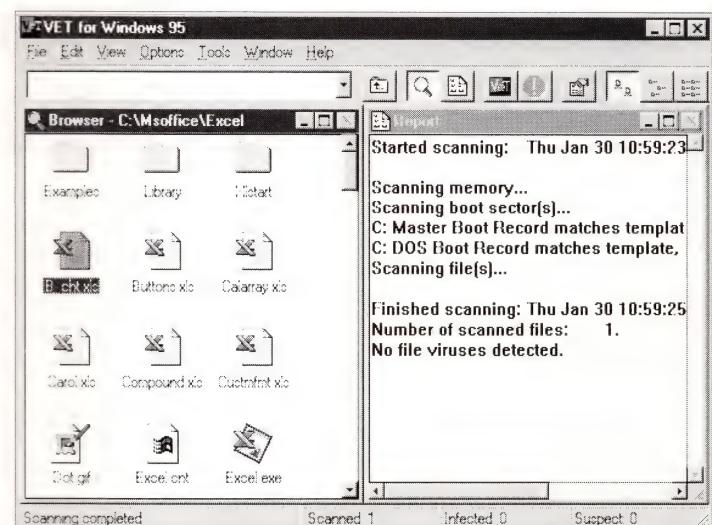


Figure 2.

Help and advice

The Windows-type Help file is particularly detailed. Called the *Virus Encyclopedia*, it provides general information on types of viruses and the principles upon which they work, useful both for the uninitiated and others who wish to bring themselves up to date. Even more comforting is the inclusion of every known virus that Vet can deal with, with detailed description of its behaviour and effects. In essence, this online help replaces the hard-copy manual, a change that was made in response to feedback from users. The manual is still available, for the 20% who didn't want to change, otherwise a much slimmer Vet Manual Update is provided to new customers.

Cybec also produces a periodical called *Cyclops*, which provides users with information on Cybec's offices and staff as well as important virus-related conferences or discussions. *Cyclops* also features up-to-date information on new virus types and comments about "regulars" reported to be particularly active.

Personal technical support is provided by ringing 1800 807 062 or by sending an e-mail message to support@cybec.com.au. Cybec's web site is at www.cybec.com.au.

48-hour guarantee

If you suspect your system is infected with a new virus, Cybec offer a guarantee. Send them a diskette with your problem and they will guarantee to provide a solution within 48 hours.

For the bookshelf

BOOK REVIEW

Lesley Howells



NetLearning: Why Teachers Use the Internet

This book is clearly intended for those who have not used the Internet as a teaching tool. It provides clear concise information about the Internet. There are first-person reports of teaching projects in which the Internet plays an integral part, together with accounts of how teachers have connected their

schools and classrooms to the world.

First we are taken through the steps to connect our classrooms to the Internet, then basic Internet training such as using

- The World Wide Web
- E-mail
- Newsgroups
- Mailing lists
- FAQs
- International Relay Chat (IRC)
- CU-SeeMee
- FTP
- Telnet
- Gopher
- Search engines and directories
- internet sites for learning how to use the Internet.

The chapter *Students in the Internet Classroom* looks at how today's classrooms have changed, how the Internet can support learning, the project-based classroom, information literacy, assessing students' learning, and student publishing on the Web.

It seems very likely that the Internet will change how students learn and teachers teach. Here we have access to the experience of many other teachers, their projects, their advice on what works, and as important, what does not.

We can look at online collaborations between teachers, get tips for the design and implementation of online projects, and how to avoid the pitfalls.

An important section deals with how schools can embrace Internet technology; how to cultivate advocates, how to demonstrate the benefits to your school

community, how to find the funds, how to keep both students and the school safe while using the Internet. Parents are great allies in getting schools connected. They see the importance of new technology and want their children to be part of it. Many also have business or community connections, or may have expertise of their own to offer.

Having connected our schools to the Internet we can also become connected to our communities; using the Internet for collaborations between business and schools, community groups—such as elderly citizens—local history groups and others are possible.

The text includes URLs for the sites mentioned, and the e-mail addresses of teachers whose projects are included. This give us personal access to their expertise.

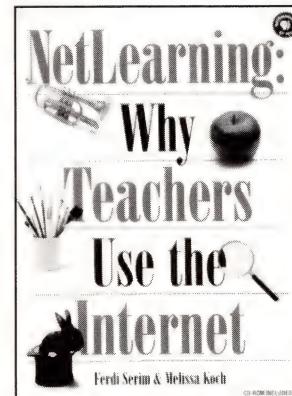
The book has appendices containing e-mail addresses of "pioneer" teachers; World Wide Web resources for schools arranged by subject, a glossary of Net speak and an index, but lacks a table of contents.

This is an inspirational book for teachers, especially those contemplating using the Internet in their classrooms, but it also has ideas for those who have already begun to use this exciting educational tool. It would be an excellent addition to a teacher's professional library

Ferdi Serim and Melissa Koch
NetLearning: Why Teachers Use the Internet

Published by Songline Studios and O'Reilly & Associates
Songline Guides
ISBN 1 56592 201 8
292 pages + CD-ROM (for Global Network Navigator; not useful for Australia)
RRP \$49.95

Lesley Howells has been a Library Technician in a secondary college for more than 20 years and helps students to use the Internet.



Info Box

Vet 9.2

Minimum system requirements

- 1 MB free hard disk space
- Versions available for DOS 3.x, Windows 3.x/95/NT or OS/2

Availability and cost

Distributed by
Cybec Pty Ltd
350 Hampton St
Hampton 3188

For information or evaluation copies
e-mail: info@cybec.com.au

Ph: (03) 9521 0655

Fax: (03) 9521 0727

Technical support:

Ph: 1800 807 062 or

e-mail: support@cybec.com.au.

Web: www.cybec.com.au.

RRP: \$126, includes a year's worth of quarterly updates and free technical support. The annual update cost after that is \$63.

There is a 10% discount for Melb PC members.

Peter's PC Update Puzzle

WIN A COREL CD-ROM

Peter Smith



These puzzles are designed to be solved without using a computer—if a bird-brain can write them, another bird-brain can solve them!

Solve the puzzle (you may use plain paper or a photocopy—you do not need to mutilate your *PC Update*) and send your entry to

Peter's PC Update Puzzle

April

PO Box 14

Ringwood VIC 3134

to arrive by Wednesday 30 April.

We'll publish the solutions and the winner in the June *PC Update*.

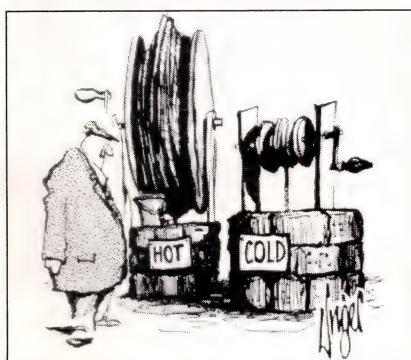
No, entries cannot be accepted by fax or e-mail; good old-fashioned snail-mail gives everyone an equal opportunity and won't clog up my e-mail or fax! Also please don't send entries to the Melb PC office—they are busy enough.

Prize

This month's prize is a copy of the Corel CD *The Complete Herman*, which I reviewed in the Jan-Feb 1996 issue of *PC Update*. Some of my favourite cartoons from this collection are included here.

Four of Everything

Each of the digits 1–9 occurs four times in the central part of the grid. The clues mention every time that a digit appears more than once in a column or row. No digit appears next to itself, horizontally or vertically. The numbers to the right and bottom of the grid are the sum of the cells to the left or above.



Across

- A. A pair of 3s, no 9s.
- B. One 2.
- C. A pair of 1s, a pair of 2s.
- D. A pair of 7s, a pair of 9s.
- E. A pair of 4s, a pair of 8s.
- F. A pair of 7s, no 2s.

Down

- a. A pair of 5s.
- b. No 7s.
- c. No 4s.
- d. A pair of 7s, no 3s.
- e. No 8s.
- f. A pair of 4s, no 6s.

February's results

Barbara Turner won the CD-ROM.

Solutions

- Year 7, Samantha Brown, Flute.
 - Year 8, Grace Grey, Viola.
 - Year 9, Robert Green, Tuba.
 - Year 10, David White, Trumpet.
 - Year 11, Angela Black, Timpani.
- The incorrect clue was no 4.
- There's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip.
 - What can you expect from a pig except a grunt.

(Apologies for the typo in the answer grid for the first proverb, however, everyone who entered got it right.) □



Answer Grid

Four of Everything

	a	b	c	d	e	f	
A							24
B							
C							15
D							38
E							35
F							35
	23	34	33	38			27



Gandhi: Apostle of Peace and Non-violence

CD-ROM REVIEW

G. Singh

This is an interesting and very user friendly CD-ROM for anyone interested in Gandhi or in India's struggle for freedom from the British Raj (India became independent in 1947). The CD-ROM provides fairly comprehensive information about Gandhi's life. Looks like Walnut Creek has produced another good CD-ROM. The flier on the CD-ROM lists the following main features:

Info Box

Gandhi: Apostle of Peace and Non-violence

Minimum system requirements

- IBM compatible computer
- Windows 3.1 or 95
- 7 MB free hard disk space
- 4 MB of RAM
- Sound card
- 640 x 480 x 256 colour display

Availability and cost

Walnut Creek CD ROM
Suite 260, 1547 Palos Verdes Mall
Walnut Creek CA 94596 USA
Ph: 0011 1 510 674 0783
Fax: 0011 1 510 672 0281
E-mail: orders@cdrom.com
Web: <http://www.cdrom.com/>

RRP: US\$39.95

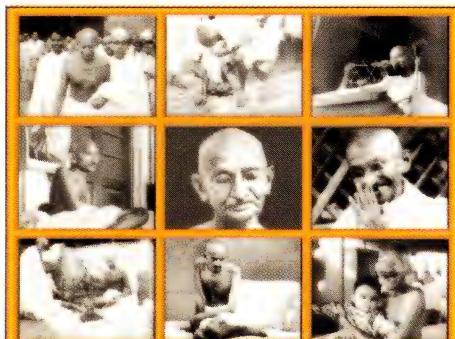


Figure 1. Opening montage.

- Video—45 minutes of movie clips.
- 175 photographs (some rare).
- Copies of original letters in Gandhi's own handwriting.
- Original recordings of Gandhi's voice.
- Home movie theatre—45 minutes of video on Gandhi with a background of Indian music and narration.
- An interactive timeline pointer—to point at any time in Gandhi's life, and find out what was happening at that time.
- Interactive maps—to highlight and view places at which significant events took place.
- Hypertext or hot words—click on these words for a definition or short biographical notes on people mentioned in the text.

Installation

It took me about five minutes to install the necessary files on my hard drive.

Getting started

Click on the *Gandhi* icon and you get a README file and the main CD-ROM icon. Click on the README file for information about the symbols, buttons, etc used on the CD-ROM.

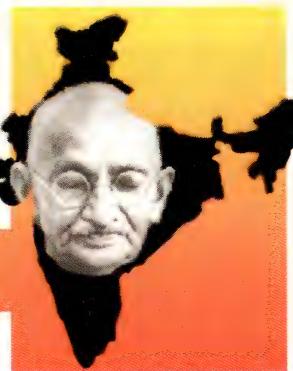
Navigating

The Index button shows various events in Gandhi's life in a chronological order. The other buttons are

- *The Early Life* (covers events from Gandhi's early years and his schooling).



Figure 2. Main screen, showing controls and display, photographs on the left, video on the right.



informative
and a good
reference source

- *In South Africa* (covers his journey to, and life in, South Africa.)
- *Mission—Free India* (covers Gandhi's return to India and involvement in the struggle for freedom from the British.)
- *Special Topics* (several topics related to Gandhi's jailing and round table conferences, etc.)
- *Home Movie Theatre* (some 45 minutes of video footage covering various events in Gandhi's life. These are of course quick "snapshots" of Gandhi's life, with narration and Indian music in the background.)
- *Photo Album* (includes some rarely seen photographs from the archives.)
- *Voice of Gandhi* (you can hear Gandhi's voice from some of the events—I was fascinated to hear his voice.)
- *Maps* (these show places mentioned in the text, spots where important events occurred, etc. This is interactive and you can click on the place name and it will show the map with the place names flashing.)
- And finally, the *Exit* button (which asks you if you really wanted to quit.)

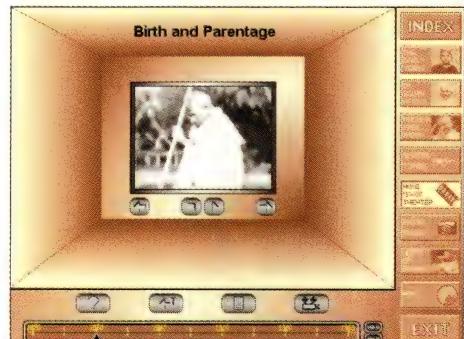


Figure 3. The home movie screen, ready to roll.

Browsing

Clicking on the Gandhi icon starts a melodious hymn and a number of stills and video clips appear on your screen. The main menu comes on—to the right of the screen are the main buttons described above. You can highlight the time or events you are interested in. There are two boxes on the screen one (on the left) for photographs and the other (on the right) to play the video clips. Below these is a box with text related to an event you might be exploring.

Scroll up and down within the text by clicking on the appropriate arrow. You can click forward or backward, go back to where you were previously, print the text or view a word's definition, or click on a place name to see a map with the place highlighted. Click once on the map and it takes you back to where you were in the text window.

You can read the text, or click on the speaker button and have the narrator read the text to you. However, if you want to scroll within the text, you can only do so with the speaker switched off.

While the video clip is playing the narrator gives a précis version of the text and a quick run down on the event in question. This can be switched on or off as desired. If you would rather read the text you can switch off the narration.

The left side box shows stills. You can click on the zoom button to display the full screen. The resolution of the photographs is very good. You can go forward or backward by clicking the appropriate arrow, however, each selection has only a limited number of photographs.

The Special Topics button gives a call out box with various options for topics. Clicking on "The Great March" gave me information about the great march by Gandhi against the former South African government with photos and related video clips.

I found the Home Movie Theatre section quite good. You can play and view video clips continuously (by clicking on the movie camera button.) Or you can play each clip separately, using play, stop etc, just as you would on a video player (by clicking on the appropriate buttons.)

The Photo Album is another interesting feature. You view the photographs one-by-one or start an automatic slide show (by clicking on the slide show button, and choosing the time interval between slides.) I set up a time interval of one second—it was fun to see all the 175 photographs within a few minutes.

Finally, the Interactive Timeline, shows exactly which year a particular event happened (an arrow on the timeline button points to the year of an event).

Overall impression

I found "Gandhi: Apostle of Peace and Non-violence" to be informative and a good reference source for anyone interested in Gandhi or in the main events happening within the freedom struggle of India during Gandhi's time. The CD-ROM also provides a brief look at the British Raj in India, although as appropriate, the context is Gandhi's life. This CD-ROM would be a good one to have in your library. It would save you having to browse through many books to find the equivalent information. It won't however, replace the hundreds of books written on the subject you would need for in-depth research on Gandhi.

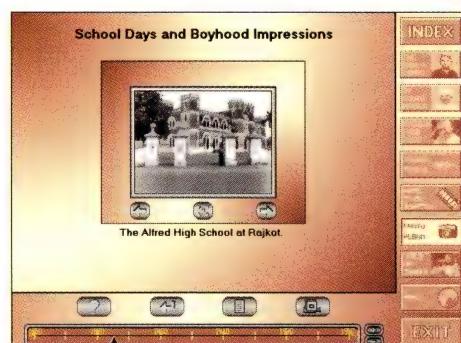


Figure 4. The photo album, where you can view individual images, or a slide show.

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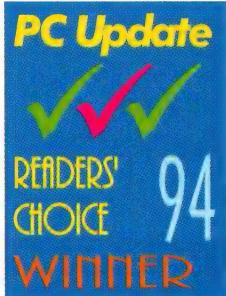
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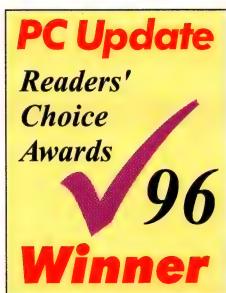
Morris Tobias has been a member and long-time supporter of Melb PC since 1987. Hundreds of members have benefitted from his expertise.



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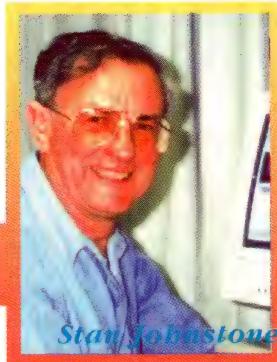


Winner of PC Update
Readers' Choice Awards —
Computer Repairer/Upgrader



PartitionMagic v3.02

SOFTWARE REVIEW



Stan Johnstone

Just 18 months ago I saw PartitionMagic for the first time. We reviewed version 2.02 in *PC Update*, August 1996. Version 3.0 was released in November and now, version 3.02 is available!

There have been a lot of changes and improvements in that short time. Version 1 was for OS/2 and DOS only, and ran from diskettes. The latest version runs on OS/2, DOS, or any Windows system, and it handles FAT, HPFS, FAT32 and NTFS partitions. It also includes a Boot Manager, for running multiple operating systems, a cluster analyser, and a DriveMapper that remaps drive letters when new drives are introduced. What's more, you can also convert a file system from FAT32 to FAT16, and back again, without having to reinstall your programs or data files.

Why partition?

Most computers come from the builder with everything installed on a hard disk prepared with a single large partition. So what? You've got a big drive. Who cares if a file containing a single character can take up an entire 32 KB cluster? You've got plenty of space. You can afford to waste some. Or can you? Partition size influences how much slack or wasted space you have on your drive. It also influences how efficiently you work. It

can even effect data security.

I have two computers, both of them have two hard disks, and each of these is partitioned in the same manner. I store data in comparatively small drives. I keep these drives at 127 KB or less, so I can take advantage of the 2 KB cluster size. This minimises slack (or wasted) space and helps me work more efficiently. I don't have to spend time searching for that elusive document. All my documents are on the data drive.

Separating data from programs is also more efficient for backups. It's easy to backup a whole drive at one time rather than doing a series of incremental backups. This is an important feature for me as I commonly backup between computers' hard drives.

All my software and system files are stored in drives appropriate to their requirements. By keeping data and programs separate, I minimise the chance of my data being corrupted by a buggy or crash-prone application.

Setting up different partitions is a good thing, so how do you do it? If you wanted to set up a system in a similar manner to mine, you could do it fairly readily using FDISK—at the time of the initial configuration (before you install software or create data files.) If you want to make changes later, that's another story entirely.

Although FDISK has been around for a long time, and works well, you are not likely to find it on a list of favourite utilities. People don't like using FDISK because, if you want to change partitions, you usually have to reinstall your operating system, and your applications, and copy your data files back on to your hard drive, no simple task when dealing with the likes of Windows 95. That's why before PartitionMagic many people just lived with their large and inefficient, partitions. It was too much trouble to change.

PartitionMagic provides the means to create and resize partitions easily. You are not locked into the drive's original partitions. And if you upgrade to a new, larger drive, PartitionMagic enables you to prepare the new drive in any manner you wish, then transfer your existing material to the new drive.

This feature came in handy when I helped a friend—who had bought a new machine—quickly copy all his old material to a new hard drive. While we were at it, we determined the ideal partition sizes for the new drive and suddenly discovered more than 50 MB of disk space had been recovered. Perhaps he hadn't needed a new hard drive after all, maybe he just needed PartitionMagic.

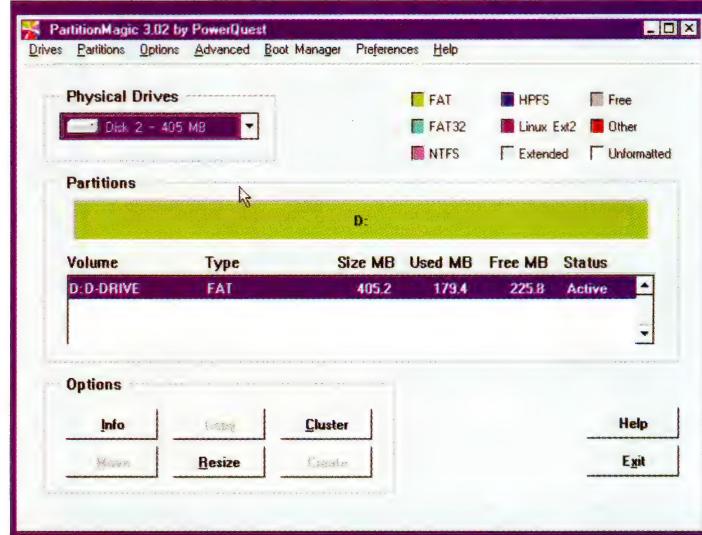


Figure 1. A 405 MB drive before partitioning.

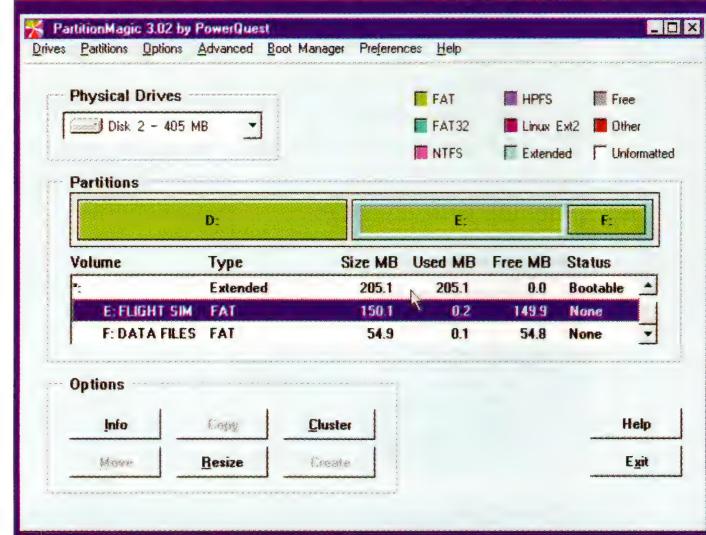


Figure 2. After partitioning into three drives.

a worthwhile tool

**enabling users to optimise
their drives easily**

Multiple operating systems

Not everyone wants to run different operating systems on a single machine, but sometimes it is necessary. If for example, you need to run Windows NT on a machine on which you normally run Windows 95, you can create a NTFS (New Technology File System) partition for Windows NT, and eliminate the shortcomings of the FAT file system.

And with the Boot Manager—from IBM—that comes with PartitionMagic you can easily choose which operating system you want, anytime you start your computer. There's a menu system for choosing which mode you wish to use, a lot easier than switching to another computer anytime you need to use another operating system.

Using PartitionMagic

Although installed under Windows, when you run it, PartitionMagic actually closes down Windows and runs at the DOS level automatically.

Figure 1 shows my D drive, a 405 MB hard disk with 179.4 MB used (it had just been defragmented). To resize the partition I clicked on "Resize" and dragged the right-hand limit back to the chosen value of 200 MB. PartitionMagic went to work, checking the integrity and sectors as it did.

Then I highlighted free space, clicked on "Create" and selected "Extended" from a drop-down menu of partition types. Again, clicking on "Create" it was a simple matter to define the partition type as FAT, name it FLIGHT SIM, select a size of 150 MB, and as if by magic, my one disk was now made up of two drives.

Repeating the exercise I finished with partitions of 200, 150 and 55 MB, on my original 405 MB hard disk.

When I clicked on "Exit" the computer rebooted and my drives came up as D, E and F, while my CD-ROM drive had been renamed G. This could have been a problem with Windows and all its pointers, which had been aimed at E the former designation for my CD-ROM, but

PartitionMagic's DriveMapper utility easily converted all the Windows pointers from E to G. Magic!

This is one of the simpler scenarios for which you might use PartitionMagic. But it illustrates just how effective the program is and how simple it is to use. You can do additional tuning, specifying optimum or special cluster sizes for specific purposes, or you can accept the recommended cluster size parameters.

The package

As with most products, PowerQuest recommends backing up all your files before you use PartitionMagic. The program comes with a 220 page manual that covers use of the program comprehensively. The manual also includes appendices with troubleshooting tips and importantly, a glossary of terms to help you with an area only the more daring of us would have ventured without PartitionMagic.

I found no mention of the need to run DEFRAG before starting. But initially I was unable to reduce the first partition to the size I wanted. I was able to do so easily after running DEFRAG. Maybe I was being too demanding!

During the course of this review, I visited PowerQuest's home page at <http://www.powerquest.com>, downloaded the latest PartitionMagic patch and incorporated it into the software I was reviewing.

Conclusion

Given the size of modern hard drives, PartitionMagic is a worthwhile tool enabling users to optimise their drives easily, and make many day-to-day operations a lot easier. It's certainly worth the \$110 street price currently advertised.

/Ed: Gene Barlow, PowerQuest's user group specialist, will be presenting PartitionMagic at our April meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to see PartitionMagic in action and to purchase your own copy at a very attractive price.—CDJ

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Info Box

PartitionMagic

Minimum system requirements

- 386SX with 8 MB RAM
- CD-ROM drive
- 8 MB hard disk space
- Windows 95, OS/2 2.1, DOS 5.0

Availability and cost

Most large retailers

Street priceS \$110 (full product)
\$55 (upgrade)

Training courses

APRIL - MAY

Paul Palcsek



Weeknight and weekend courses

Applications

Advanced QuickBooks—Chart of Accounts \$45

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 5 May.
Setting up the chart of accounts and lists; get it right the first time! Reports for you, your accountant, an auditor, bank manager and tax man—Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and more. Budgets, account reconciliation, tailoring and memorising reports. Saving time and keystrokes; memorising, scheduling and group transactions. Inventory tracking and recording.

Prerequisites: You must understand the concepts of double-entry bookkeeping. You must be familiar with Windows.

Advanced QuickBooks—Creditors \$45

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 19 May.
Creditors; raising Bills and Credit Bills—what is owed by you. Paying bills; recording payment of Group Tax, Superannuation, your suppliers, the shareholders or directors. tracking and reporting.

Prerequisites: You must understand the concepts of double-entry bookkeeping. You must be familiar with Windows.

Advanced QuickBooks—Debtors \$45

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 12 May.
Debtors; Invoicing and Credit Memos—what is owed to you. Recording the receipt of payments, banking the monies, bad debts, dishonoured cheques, memorised transactions, the debit card; tracking and reporting.

Prerequisites: You must understand the concepts of double-entry bookkeeping. You must be familiar with Windows.

To book a course, please use the order form on page 32 or, for credit card orders, phone or fax the office (numbers on page 3.)

Introduction to Access v2.0 \$102

Ray Azzopardi

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Thu 22, 29 May.
This course will get you started on the road to making use of the powerful features in Access. You will learn how to create tables and queries. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: Experience with Windows and a mouse.

Office 97 Overview \$45

Len Krois

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 23 Apr. This sessions will give you an overview of the major new and revised features of Office 97, including the new Internet Web features. This course will help people who are trying to decide on an office suite, or people who are considering whether to upgrade.

Prerequisites: Acquaintance with other Office 95/3.x or other integrated Windows Office suites would enhance the experience, but no specifics are needed.

Starting QuickBooks \$180

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 7, 14, 21, 28 Apr.
This course is for people who have started to use QuickBooks and want to gain further benefits from the package.

Prerequisites: You must understand the concepts of double entry booking. You must be familiar with Windows.

Using Excel to Analyse Data \$75

Ray Azzopardi

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Thu 17, 24 Apr.
This course will cover functions, formulas, pivot tables, charts, trend analysis, data sorting, subtotaling, data grouping, filtering, exporting to a database, macro recording, non-workbook files.

Prerequisites: Must have used Excel.

Word for Windows v6/7 graphics \$45

Noeline Finlay

1.00 pm–4.00 pm, Sun 6 Apr.
A picture says a thousand words. Learn how to use graphics to enhance your documents, letters, faxes etc.

Prerequisites: Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using Windows.

Word for Windows v6/7 long documents \$45

Noeline Finlay

1.00 pm–4.00 pm, Sun 20 Apr.
Do you have to manage long documents? Do you like to brainstorm? Use Word's inbuilt features to manage long documents, theses, novels, etc. Learn how to add section breaks, headers, footers, tables, indexes, page numbers, etc. Use Word's outlining feature to brainstorm ideas.

Prerequisites: Must be able to create, save and edit Word Documents, and have experience using Windows.

Word for Windows v6/7 tables \$45

Noeline Finlay

9.00 am–12 noon, Sun 20 Apr.
Tables have hundreds of uses. Keep track of addresses, phone numbers, assets etc. Present data clearly, concisely and in a pleasing format. Learn how

to insert formulas to produce accurate totals. Learn how to incorporate graphics in tables.

Prerequisites: Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using Windows.

Word for Windows v6/7 templates, styles and page layouts \$45

Noeline Finlay

9.00 am–12 noon, Sun 6 Apr.
Save time and look professional. Learn how to create consistent and professional looking memos, letters, etc, using templates.

Prerequisites: Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using Windows.

Communications

Using the Melb PC BBS \$45

Lynn Pollock

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 16 Apr.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 23 May.

A basic look at the Melb PC BBS with hints and tips on using all the various menu items. Also covers initial log ons and using the message areas.

Prerequisites: Must have logged onto the Melb PC BBS

Internet

Note: Internet courses are best done in the sequence shown—1 to 5; or 1, 2 or 3, 4 and 5.

1. What is the Internet? \$45

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 26 Apr.
9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 24 May.

An overview of the Melb PC Internet service. Live demonstrations of all the major programs that go to making up the Internet. Discussion of the hardware items involved. General questions concerning Internet connections.

Prerequisites: None.

2. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 3.1 \$90

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 12/13 Apr.

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 10/11 May.

This is a basic course exclusively for Windows 3.1/3.11 users. Hands-on individual installation of Windows 3.x Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components. Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install basic Windows 3.x Internet software or novice users of the Internet.

Prerequisites: Must have a good working knowledge of Windows 3.1.

3. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 95 \$90

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun 12/13 Apr.
9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun 10/11 May.
This is a basic course exclusively for Win 95 users. Hands-on individual installation of Win 95 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components. Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install Win 95 Internet software or novice users of the Internet who want to use the inbuilt Win 95 32-bit TCP/IP software.

Prerequisites: Must have a good working knowledge of Win 95.

4. Effectively using Web Browsers \$60

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 26 Apr.
1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 24 May.
Complete demonstration and explanation of all features and configurations in the latest versions of Netscape and MS Internet Explorer. Configuring new helper applications, managing bookmarks or favourites, and tips and tricks to maximise your browser usage. Discussion on various searching techniques for locating information on the Web and other browser-related issues.

Prerequisites: Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

5. More using Melb PC Internet service \$90

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 27 Apr.
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 25 May.
Complete demonstration and explanation of e-mail (advanced packages) FTP, Archie, Gopher, Finger, Telnet, irc Network, newsgroups and offline readers, list servers, session timers and more. In addition, connection problems will be discussed as well as general tips and tricks to improve your connection time. A set of detailed instructions will be discussed and practised detailing how to upgrade or add to your Internet software without causing major problems or heartaches.

Prerequisites: Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

Beginners' HTML/Web Page Authoring \$90

Steven Goldate

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 8, 15 May.
The course covers the principles of HTML (HyperText Markup Language) for writing Web pages for the Internet. Participants will learn to write HTML using a text based and a WYSIWYG editor.

Covers design aspects, "Do's and Don'ts", image file formats, uploading files to a server, getting noticed, and more.

Prerequisites: Basic Windows experience assumed. Experience using a text editor preferred.

Operating Systems, Diagnostics, Hardware

Advanced Windows 95 \$45

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm–4.00 pm, Sat 19 Apr.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 9 May.
Complete hands-on examination of the advanced features found in the Win 95 operating system. Includes adding and configuring new hardware, multiple user configurations, Registry control and editing, advanced system maintenance, backing up essential files, communications and more!

Prerequisites: Attendees must have a good working knowledge of Win 95 and have obtained an understanding of the operating system's functions.

Archiving files \$45

Peter Freeman

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 9 Apr.
The similarities between all the archivers, command line archiving and unarchiving, compressing files for backups, and more.

Prerequisites: A knowledge of the DOS directory structure is assumed

Computer basics \$120

Mary Levens

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Tue 8, 15, 22, 29 Apr.
Take control of your computer with this hands-on guided discovery of DOS-based computing. Covers terminology, basic DOS commands, directory structure, file types, brief discussion of hardware and software. Knowledge of these topics is prerequisite for other courses.

Prerequisites: No prior computing experience required. Students must have frequent access to a DOS-based PC outside of class.

Housekeeping a computer \$45

Tom Coleman

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 1 Apr.
Looking after your PC to get the best performance out of what you have. Avoiding bad habits, bad practices.

Prerequisites: Understanding of simple computer terminology. Experience with basic DOS and the computing environment.

How to buy a computer \$10/\$60

Members: \$10. Non-members \$60 (includes first year's subscription.)

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 20 Apr.

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 28 May.

What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips, no sales talk!

Prerequisites: None.

Introduction to Networks

\$90

Len Krois

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 11, 18 Apr.
This will show you how to connect two or more computers so that you can share computer resources.

Prerequisites: You must be familiar with Windows 3.x or Win 95.

Introduction to UNIX

\$45

Len Krois

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 27 May.
UNIX/LINUX basics for people that want a basic feel for the open systems environment. Linux is a popular shareware version of UNIX that will run on IBM compatible PCs. The session includes: logging onto a UNIX system, finding your way around, manipulating files, viewing and editing text files, using the on-line text manual.

Prerequisites: Command line computing knowledge preferred

Overview of Windows 95

\$45

Barry Fredrickson

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 19 Apr.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 21 May.
Take control of your computer with this hands-on guided discovery of Win 95-based computing. Covers terminology, directory structure, file types. Knowledge of these topics is prerequisite for other courses.

Prerequisites: No prior computing experience required.

Starting Windows 95

\$137.50

Len Krois

9.00 am–5.30 pm, Sat 5 Apr.
Introduces the Win 95 environment to the computer novice. You'll learn basic Windows jargon and terminology, how to accomplish everyday tasks and all of the skills you'll need to work in Win 95. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: None. However, you will have an advantage if you have had some exposure to computers and have used a mouse.

Upgrade to Windows 95

\$137.50

Len Krois

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Tue 6, 13, 20 May.
This course is for Windows v3.1/v3.11 users moving to Win 95. A thorough overview of all of the new features you are getting with Win 95 so you can quickly convert your Windows 3.1 skills to the new Win 95 arena.

Prerequisites: You should be familiar with Windows v3.1 to the level of the Starting Windows v3.1 course.

Weekday daytime courses

These new courses use Pentium PCs in excellent training conditions, including a very effective air conditioner, even in Melbourne heatwaves.

Applications

Starting Word for Windows

\$200/\$250

Members: \$200. Non-members: \$250. Lunch included.

John Fitzsimons

9.30 am–4.30 pm, Wed/Thu 2/3 Apr.
Introduction to word processing using Microsoft Word. How to cut, copy, paste, format text. Layout of pages, mail merges.

Prerequisites: None, however, you will have an advantage if you have had some exposure to computers and have used a mouse.

Specialist trainers required

We require additional specialist Trainers in the following subjects for classes commencing later this year.

- Advanced Word for Windows 3.1 & 95.
- MS Publisher.
- Visual Basic.

If you are interested and suitably experienced in one of these areas, please contact in the first instance lynn@melbpc.org.au or mail details to Lynn Pollock c/- the Office with your details.

Notes

To book or enquire about courses, telephone the office on (03) 9699 6222, 9 am – 5 pm, weekdays.

Courses are held at the group's premises, usually in the training room. Some courses are held in the SIG room, so check when you arrive.

For more details see the BBS or the group's Web pages.

Enrolments usually close a week before the course starting date.

The address is:
2nd Floor, 66 Albert Road
South Melbourne VIC 3205.

There is normally plenty of nearby parking in the evenings or at weekends.

Great Gourmet

CD-ROM REVIEW

the program

operates smoothly

and quickly



Figure 1. Opening screen.



Figure 2. Choosing a recipe.



Figure 3. Succulent T-bones!

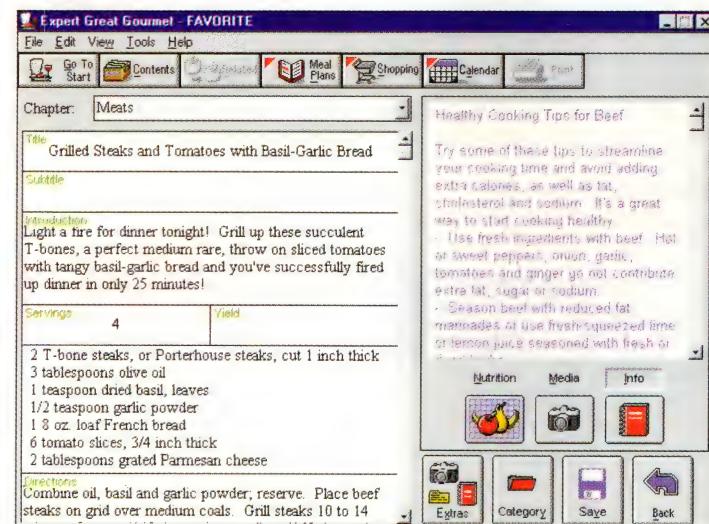
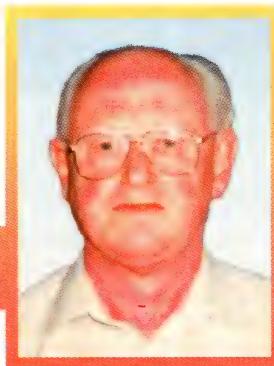


Figure 4. Editing a recipe.

Bob Burt



Using the program

Clicking on the *Contents* button opens up the range of recipes and you click on the required category to view its list of offerings in that area. The actual recipe appears in the left-hand scrollable box of the display, with, for most recipes, a colour photo displaying the prepared meal in the right-hand box. However, if you click on the *Nutrition* button, immediately below the image, the photo is replaced by nutrition information,

Promoted as a high-tech helper for Epicurean adventurers, this cookbook on computer is also suitable for the most modest of meal makers.

Great Gourmet offers around 5000 recipes, sorted into 29 categories and cross-referenced to other recipes of similar style.

The product uses a well-designed interface that can be managed comfortably by computer users with minimal experience.

whilst the *Info* button leads you to a group of topics related to the meal. For example, selection of *Apricot-Glazed Pork Kabobs* offers further information in three areas—Slimmer pork, a Grilling guide and Marinades for meat.

If you then click on the *Related* button, a drop-down menu provides you with a short list of related recipes and a meal plan for you to access if you so wish. Whilst several such meal plans are provided, you can create your own, which you name and can then access again by clicking on the *Meal Plans* button. To do this, though, you use the traditional Windows-style menu bar and call up *Edit | Add | Meal Plan...*. The design format allows you to plan up to six meals a day for an unrestricted number of days.

Using the *Shopping* button, you can generate a detailed shopping list from recipes and meal plans.

A *Calendar* button is also available and, in the calendar provided, you can enter your own notes.

Finally, you can use the *Print* button when you want to print out any of the displayed information. The program designers have been very thoughtful here. In addition to the normal range of paper size selections, they have included 3 x 5 and 4 x 6 index card settings for dot-matrix printers and for Avery and Insignia cards. You do need to make full use of the menu bar for extensive editing exercises and to access the well-laid-out Help file.

Conclusion

The program operates smoothly and quickly. It achieves this by requiring substantial portions of the program be accessed from the hard disk, rather than from the CD-ROM, but these days that is not great a cost to pay for such efficiency.

If the importing mark-up is reasonable, Great Gourmet should be very good value. □

Info Box

Great Gourmet

Minimum system requirements

- 386DX or higher
- Windows 3.1 or higher (inc. Win 95)
- VGA or SVGA
- 4 MB RAM or more
- CD-ROM drive
- 10 MB hard disk space
- Mouse and printer

Availability and cost

Not seen locally at time of review.

A product of

Expert Software Inc

800 Douglas Road

Executive Tower, Coral Gables

Florida 33134 USA

e-mail: sales@expertsoftware.com

Web: <http://www.expertsoftware.com>

RRP in USA: US\$14.95

The Tortoise and the Hare

CHILDREN'S STORY CD-ROM

Bernadette Houghton



The Tortoise and the Hare is a delightfully winsome adaptation of Aesop's classic fable of the race between the frisky, cocky hare and the slow, plodding tortoise.

Info Box

The Tortoise and the Hare

Random House/Broderbund, \$60, CD-ROM, 12 pages, English/Spanish, ages 3-8.

Minimum system requirements

- 386SX processor
- 4 MB RAM
- Windows 3.1, DOS 3.3
- SVGA display with 256 colours
- Sound card
- Mouse
- CD-ROM drive

Availability and cost

Street price is around \$60, but it will be worthwhile to shop around. Available from most major game and educational software stockists, including Myer, David Jones and Harvey Norman.

With colourful, appealing graphics and charming, quirky characters, The Tortoise and the Hare has established itself firmly on 4-year-old Patrick's repertoire of favourite animated storybooks. Even 18-month old Brennan likes it, bouncing along with the hare as he races away and trying to mimic the sound effects. And as a parent, I like it too! It's educational, it's fun, the characters are pleasant and it keeps the young ones happy.

Part of Random House/Broderbund's Living Books range, The Tortoise and the Hare targets the 3- to 8-year-old whippersnappers. The 12 pages have heaps of exploration potential, with charming animations and cute sound effects hidden behind hotspots. The story narrates in either English or Spanish and the words highlight as it is read, helping to improve the child's reading skills. Young Patrick has seen the Tortoise and the Hare countless times but always seems to discover new animations—"Mum, come and have a look at this!"

The Tortoise and the Hare is a charming, colourful program which is sure to keep your young ones entranced—just as it does mine—for hours. □

keep your young
ones entranced

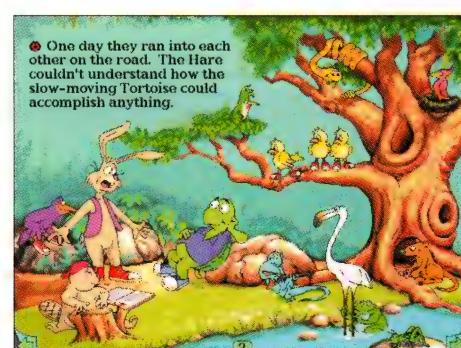


Figure 1. The hare and the tortoise talk about having a race.

Parsons Technology Home Productivity Tools

SOFTWARE REVIEWS

Bob Burt



You may not have heard of Parsons Technology. It is much more likely that the popular financial management software *Quicken* will be familiar to you, if only by name. Both Quicken and Parsons Technology are registered trademarks of *Intuit*.

Parsons Technology produces a substantial range of what is termed *Home Productivity Tools*. All the products are available on CD-ROM and run under either Windows 3.1+ or Windows 95. They are revised regularly and new titles appear frequently. At the time of writing, some 170 products were available in about a dozen different categories. As you might expect, the *Quicken* range is one of the larger groupings, delivering software related to personal finances and legal matters. However, other important categories are Home, Business, Genealogy, Bible Study and even Golf. The titles range from

Availability and cost

Local prices not available at time of printing, the equivalent products in the United States are as follows

Fundamentals of a Model Swing US\$49
Quicken Family Lawyer US\$29

Adventures in Desktop Publishing to Young's Literal Translation.

Quicken Family Lawyer for Australia

This version of Family Lawyer has been designed by a team of Australian solicitors. With this software, you can prepare your own Will and Powers of Attorney with an assurance from Parsons Technology that documents properly prepared and following the guidelines are legally binding and valid throughout Australia.

There are just two streams of activity—preparation of a Will and Powers of Attorney. Each stream has a questionnaire to guide you through the steps needed to complete the particular document. The questionnaire automatically modifies itself as you progress through its steps, depending on the answers which you have already given. For example, if you indicate that you wish to include details of funeral arrangements in your Will, then a specific Power Icon is included for quick access to further information.

Power Icons embedded in the questionnaires include

- Charity Selection—a panel shows two lists, a list of charity groups and a list of charities for the selected group. A text search enables you to quickly select charities containing the search

text.

some 170 products...in a dozen different categories

- Condition List—appropriate conditions which you can include, subject to editing.
- Delete Gift—you can remove any listed gift, leaving the remainder unaltered.
- Fractions—a fraction dialog panel enables you to enter share amounts by fraction or percentage.
- Information—further legal information and help is at hand.
- Money Bequests—a list of commonly used monetary gifts.
- Previously Entered Address—you may select any addresses which have been entered in the questionnaire to include in another question.
- Previously Entered Names—you may select any of the names previously

The screenshot shows the software interface for creating a will. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Options, Tools, Help, and a toolbar with various icons. The status bar indicates "Current: Unnamed.w1" and "Robert Alan Burt". The main window displays a will document with sections for revocation, appointment of executors, and a clause appointing the user's wife as executrix. Below the document is a questionnaire titled "Introduction" asking for full name (Robert Alan Burt), age (over 18), and reading/writing ability. It also asks for gender (Male) and a formal title for the will (e.g., Dr, Reverend). A note at the bottom states "Please state the address of..." followed by a redacted box.

Figure 1. Questionnaire and document for a will.

The screenshot shows the software interface for creating a power of attorney. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Options, Tools, Help, and a toolbar with various icons. The status bar indicates "Current: Unnamed.p1" and "New Questionnaire". The main window displays a questionnaire titled "Introduction/Appointment" with a note: "An Enduring Power will give your Attorney authority to act on your behalf even if you become unable or unwilling to manage your financial affairs." It asks for full name (redacted), formal title (e.g., Dr, Reverend or Sir), other known names, full address, and postal address. It also asks if the user is male or female, and if they wish to appoint one or two attorneys. A note at the bottom states "Please state the address of..." followed by a redacted box.

Figure 2. Questionnaire for power of attorney.

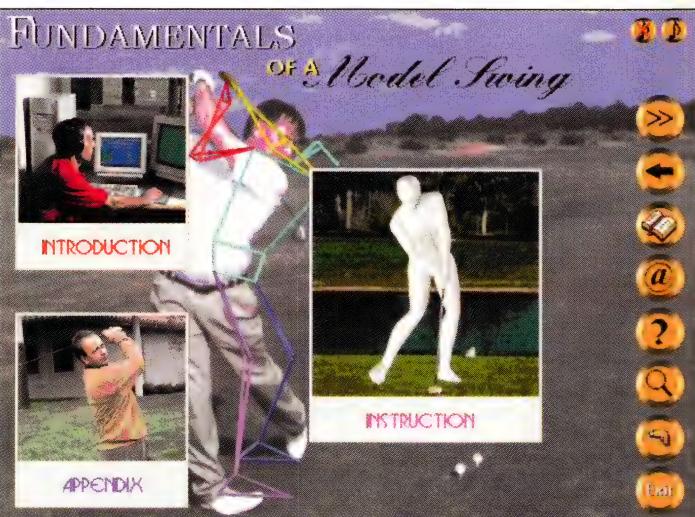


Figure 3. The "Model Swing" menu.

entered for further use.

- Relationships—a list of common relationships.
- Specific Bequests—a list of commonly used bequests, which you may edit—if required—once selected.
- Spelling Checker—your text for this question will be spell checked. A global spell check button on the toolbar also checks all your text where appropriate. As you progress through the respective questionnaires, you may call up the documents that are being prepared from them—layouts are automatically provided, ready for immediate printing.

The program could hardly be any easier to follow. While Family Lawyer has been designed for you to prepare your documents without the use of a solicitor, the online Help does refer to situations which might arise where it would be advisable to seek professional advice. The exceptions are clear, however, and most people will find this package meets all their likely needs in the preparation of a Will.

Figure 4. Into the primer on the teaching approach.

Fundamentals of a Model Swing

The title of this CD-ROM was initially somewhat shrouded in mystery for me, which may lead the well-informed to exclaim "He's obviously not a golfer!" Indeed, this is a program designed to train golfers to improve their swing. Called *The Pro Swing*, the intention is that you learn the "cause and effect" of body movements by viewing every section of the program, and, by familiarisation, be enabled to fully understand what you need to do to improve your swing.

You need to move systematically through the chapters. Each is presented visually, but the text is also available immediately in audible form, with some additional material for good measure. Explanations are fully detailed, supported by frame by frame photographs. Then, at the completion of each chapter, you may move to the pertinent supporting videos, where golfing Pro Fred Griffin takes you through the practice drills. There are 15 of these, which include setup drill, back-swing body drill, squat drill, follow the

ball drill, timing drill and so on. If you take these too seriously, I have a feeling that you may need to clear more space in front of your computer.

There is a vast amount of detailed information presented here, but there is little confusion, due to the excellent presentation and good use of text, audio and video. If installed to operate most smoothly, the program requires at least 60 MB of hard disk space, but you can run it with as little as 3 MB taken up. You also have a choice of a *Custom* installation, where you decide which components are copied to the hard disk.

The software is supported by online Help, but the newcomer will have little difficulty in progressing through the training steps. Each information screen can be printed, in a very neat fashion, with a good choice of fonts, full graphics, even a complete with a blank box for any additional notes.

As my wife has been a keen golfer for many years, I sought her comments. She enjoyed the program and was impressed by its quality.

Figure 5. The main chapters.

Figure 6. List of drills on video.

Asymetrix Toolbook II Instructor 5.0

SOFTWARE REVIEW

Liam Donaldson



Toolbook II Instructor version 5.0 is a development environment used to create applications—including courseware—which can include interactive media. It is designed for use as a multimedia authoring tool, with specific support for use as a computer-based training (CBT) system. It also provides support for distributing and managing Internet based learning. Possible applications include, interactive courseware, computer training and software support, manufacturing and quality assurance, standardised testing, equipment simulation and training, electronic textbooks, and information kiosks.

In this review I outline the main aspects of the program. There are many features such as animated paths, interaction with databases and Visual Basic controls that I could not cover. Just to list the features of the program would fill a few pages.

With Toolbook II Instructor, you can create completely native HTML/JAVA applications (WebBooks) which require no plug-in. Such applications can be run on any platform (Windows, Mac or UNIX) with a JAVA enabled Web browser.

Installation Toolbook II Instructor comes on a single CD and the setup program provides several options. I chose to install the largest option onto my hard drive. That took more than 350 MB and quite some time. I was glad to see that the program provides for uninstalling, via the Windows 95 program control.

This is a WYSIWYG (What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get) program with a typical Win 95 interface. There are extensive command menus and tool bars. There are tools for drawing directly onto a page or you can import graphics and OLE objects. The usual editing options (cut, copy, paste, etc) are available, and the floating palettes add a nice touch.

The initial screen offers choices such as opening an existing Toolbook or creating a new one from scratch. The program features "Wizards" to assist you create a new book. Other helpful features include "Book Specialists" for Internet applications and local computer use, are also included. Templates speed the creation of your own books, while sample backgrounds make the creation of your own pages straightforward.

Help

Toolbook II Instructor's help features are comprehensive, including an *OpenScript* reference, option with detailed script command descriptions and examples.

As well as tutorials through the *Learning Centre*, the program offers "Step-by-Step" examples, which, together, make an online manual with excellent explanations of the processes used in the program.

A Toolbook II Instructor book (file) can also be regarded as an object. Your applications can consist of one or more books. The program uses a book metaphor, as a simple way of explaining how you use the program to create applications.

Books consist of pages that can share backgrounds and objects, chapters can also share backgrounds and objects or have unique attributes.

To help you on your way sample files demonstrate many of the program's features. The "Toolbook Learning Centre" offers tutorials, with animations, graphics and sound samples. These aren't just for show, you can edit the samples to see how they work (so you can create similar elements for your own applications), or you can use them directly, just cut and paste them to your own file.

The "Library Toolbook" shows sample widgets. These can also be pasted into your own projects. (Widgets are JAVA applets that perform functions such as handling question and answer creation.)

For example, there is a sample widget for navigating pages by clicking on directional icons. You can place this sample onto any single page in your project, or paste it onto a master-page background, so that it appears on every page of a chapter, section, book or project. One word of caution. There are widgets to use on the Internet, and widgets to use on local applications. You must use the right sort for your project. When you install the program, the different widgets are copied to separate directories and keeping them separate is a good practice to continue. Of course if you don't like the sample widgets, you can edit them or create and save your own.

There is a macro recording feature as well. VBX controls can be included. You can create and save your own file of VBX

offers great potential for computer-based training

controls for use with Toolbook II Instructor .

You can use the resource management menu to import files, for example bitmap drawings. Once placed there they are readily available as you construct your program.

Each object or page can have a script attached to it. Every object is assigned a unique identity, and the "Object Browser" option provides a list of every object within your project. You can cut and paste or move objects within the browser.

Info Box

Toolbook II Instructor 5.0

Minimum system requirements

- 80486/33 MHz processor
- 8 MB RAM (12 MB recommended)
- 30 MB free hard disk space
- MS Windows 3.1, Windows NT 3.5, Windows 95 or higher
- CD-ROM drive
- VGA (or higher) card with 256 colours at 640 x 480 resolution
- Windows compatible mouse or pointing device
- Sound card (optional)

Availability and cost

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- **32 bit DLL Access - NEW!**
- **VBX Controls**
- **Object Browser**
- **Shared Scripts**
- **Performance**

Figure 1. Some new features as seen in a tutorial

You can write scripts manually or use predefined modules, inserted from menus. Auto script provides many choices. You test your scripts by issuing commands from within author mode, using a special Command Window for this purpose.

Once you have created a section of your program, you can test it, using the F3 key to toggle between author and reader mode. In reader mode you can set limits for users' (readers') access or control. You also have the option of saving files as stand-alone executable programs.

The program is very flexible. You can, for example, create a simple learning program for young children, with a picture, a question about the picture and four possible answers to that question. You can set the program to record and store answers, to return the correct answer after a certain number of incorrect answers, or to provide feedback. A university course might include strict access and security features. If you're setting up a remote training module, you might decide to include time limits for each question, response attempt limits.

After creating an application, you can "Export to HTML" and your creation will be converted into a native Internet application. When you use this option, the pages are converted to native HTML pages, interactive features are converted to JAVA applets. You can send this converted application to a web server, from which it can be made available to anyone on

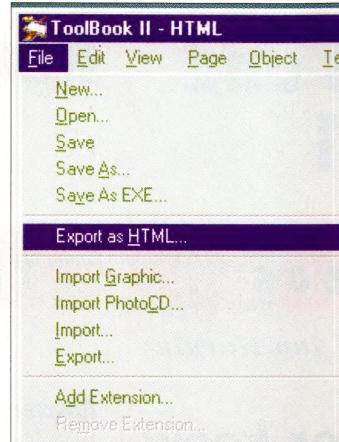


Figure 2. The File menu shows the Export to HTML command

the Internet.

Alternatively, you can use the application in native Toolbook format and run it on the web using the Neuron plug-in module. (Neuron comes on the CD-ROM).

You can distribute your Toolbook modules through the Internet, an intranet, a LAN or on disks or CD-ROM, for use on stand-alone machines.

Conclusion

Toolbook is highly customisable and offers great potential for those who are involved in providing computer-based training. If the Internet has potential for changing the way we conduct business, then it surely will change the way we learn. Toolbook provides a comprehensive means of creating learning or training applications for use on the net.

Want to know more?

There is a very active Toolbook discussion list available via e-mail. Messages number 40 or more per day, about all aspects of Toolbook. List archive and a digest option are also available.

To subscribe, send e-mail to listserv.arizona.edu.

In the main body of the text type (on one line):
 subscribe toolb-1
 "YourFirstName"
 "YourLastName"

There is also a Toolbook tutorial on the Net, <http://www.curl.utexas.edu/bandouts/toolbook/>. A search using your favourite search engine will also turn up other, interesting sites some with free sample toolbooks to download.

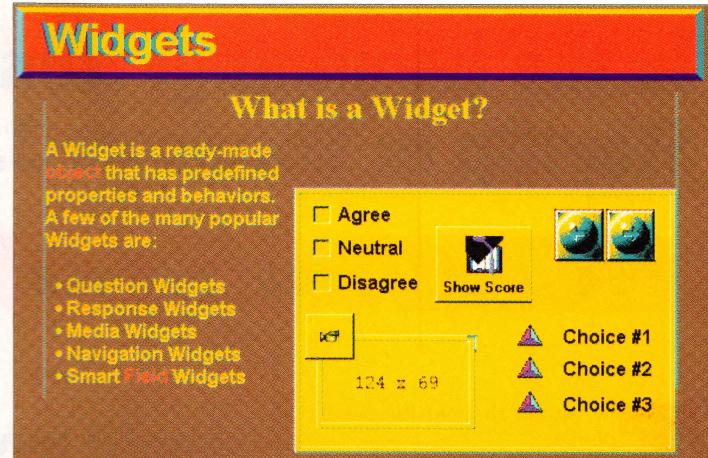


Figure 3. Sample from a tutorial showing widgets.

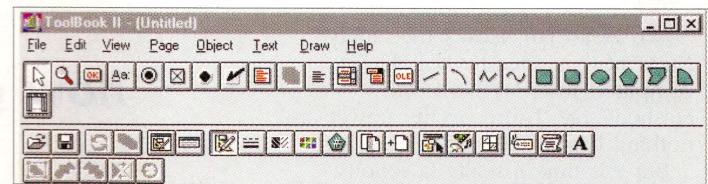


Figure 4. The Toolbook author screen.

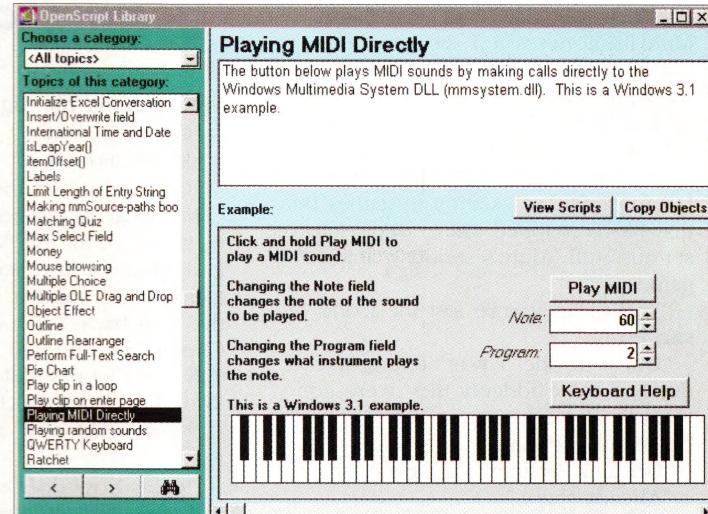


Figure 5. Examples from the OpenScript library.

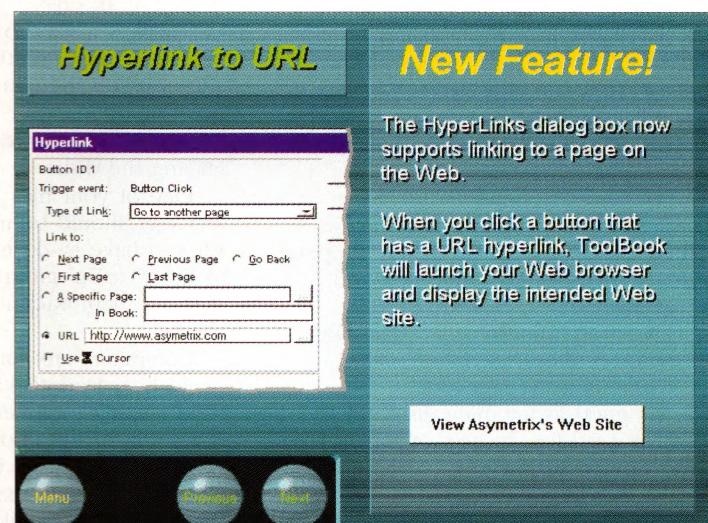


Figure 6. Hyperlinking to a URL dialog box as seen in the tutorial.

In the beginning: Icons and StartUp in Windows 3.1

YOU CAN TEACH AN OLD DOG...

Jan Harkin

The phone rings in the middle of dinner.

"I've got a problem."

It's Dad. The old man. The block I was chipped off.

No "Hello Jan. How's the family?" None of that since he bought his computer. Just "My hard disk's crashed," or, "I turn on the power and nothing happens."

But this time it really is serious.

"I've lost Mum's games. Well not lost them exactly. I can still find them. In File Manager. But I can't see them. Mum'll kill me when she gets home."

Mum's games are "Minesweeper" and "Solitaire." When you buy a 386 with a 40 MB hard drive and load Windows 3.1, DOS, a word processor and a spreadsheet there isn't a lot of room left for anything exciting in games but that hasn't stopped Mum. Dad's into the serious stuff. Mum's seriously into games.

"You mean you've lost the icons," I suggest.

"Got it in one. I was tidying up the desktop and suddenly they were gone."

Dad's also into jargon. Age is no barrier to geekdom.

"Go into Program Manager."

"Already there."

"Open the group you want to put the games in."

"I've clicked on the Games group."

A couple of weeks ago we would have taken half an hour to get to this stage. He's learning fast.

"Click on 'File' then 'New.' The 'New Program Object' dialogue box will appear."

"Done."

"Select the 'Program Item' option then click on 'OK.' Fill in the 'Program Item Properties' dialogue box and..."

"Hang on."

"We'll do 'Minesweeper' first. Give it a name in the 'Description' area."

"Will 'Minesweeper' do?"

"As good as anything else."

"No need for sarcasm. What do I put for 'Command line'?"

"Try clicking 'browse'."

"This is just like opening a file. I keep clicking until I find the right

she'll never know

how good I'm

getting at all this

directory and file, right?"

"Go for it, Dad."

"Bingo. Found it."

"Click on it and the command line will appear in the box. You don't need to worry about the 'Working directory' and 'Shortcut key' sections now. We'll tackle those another time. Now to get the icon back. Click on 'Change icon.' Choose the one you want and click on 'OK.' The icon should appear in the 'New Program Object' dialogue box."

"Now I click 'OK' and she's apples, right?"

"Right. Now do it all again for 'Solitaire' and Mum will never know."

"She'll never know how good I'm getting at all this."

"There is a way to let her know. Put her games into 'StartUp.' Then when she turns on the computer her games box will appear."

"And I'll have a good excuse for leaving the dishes."

"One of your tiles in Program Manager should be marked 'StartUp.' All you have to do is move your games to the 'StartUp' group in the same way you put them back into the 'Games' group."

"Computers are marvellous things." I could hear Dad clicking his mouse. He'd already forgotten I was on the other end of the phone.

I hang up and go back to a cold tea. For the third time this week. Maybe I can get Dad to go along to a SIG for new users. I'll work on it. □

Random access

YOUR QUESTION

Answers received

From: Daniel Willis in response to the question from Leighton West regarding fonts in Hyper-terminal. To view the ASCII characters on the Melb PC BBS (such as the lines used to put boxes around text), use the Terminal font in Hyperterminal. This is a standard Windows font, that has all the ASCII characters that appear in normal DOS text. There are a few others fonts that also have all the extended DOS ASCII characters. The best way to find these is to check out the font in the Windows Character Map application. If this isn't already on your system, it can be installed from the Windows 95 disks or CD by going into the control panel, opening Add/remove programs, choosing the Windows Setup tab, and selecting Character map under accessories.

Questions and answers

Q When I shut down Windows 95, sometimes it gives a logo and other times it shows the message that it is now safe to switch off. Why is this happening?

A 1: Run REGCLEAN, which is on the BBS as it may be a problem with the registry. This fixed my similar problems.

A 2: I have had a similar problem with a faulty floppy disk inserted. Pressing Ctrl+Alt+Del gave the menu to switch off.

A 3: Check the Microsoft Knowledge Base which has a file on diagnosis of shutdown problems. This is a step-by-step process. My problem was with a CD-ROM driver which gave the same symptoms.

Q Having set up the new Windows 95 Internet kit I now find that when I try to bring up any other system it defaults to the Melb PC Internet 90 minute line. How do you turn it off?

A Internet Explorer defaults to a specific connection and you need to go into the options and change it.

Q I have been loading the new Internet kit without problems on our Windows 95 computers but when I try loading it on a 386, it stops on the first diskette with a CRC error in KERNEL386.EXE.

A A CRC error means there is a fault with the data. You should get a new diskette.

Q I am using the Internet kit. When I try to dial and it gets to checking the password it says "Dial up network could not negotiate a compatible set of network protocols you specified in the service type

ANSWERED

John Swale



Acknowledgments

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American Power Conversion for the supply of six uninterruptible power supplies for the Group's Communications Centre.

ACA Pacific for the donation of a Diamond Stealth Video card for **PC Update** production.

Computer Rebuilds for the supply of equipment for **PC Update** production and the group's communications centre.

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SONY Australia for the supply of equipment for **PC Update** production.

SEALCORP Computer Products for the supply of equipment for the group's Communications Centre.

Symantec for ongoing contributions. □

Unanswered questions

Q From: Steve Sandford—Is there a program available to convert old Commodore 128 Word Writer files so they can be read by a PC using Windows Word 7? The Commodore 128 is no longer working but I have numerous assignments, etc out of reach.

Q From: Alan MacLean. I'm using Windows 95 on a Compaq 486 DX 2/66 with a 420 MB HD and 8 MB RAM. SCANDISK and MS-DOS both say I have 103,555,072 bytes of disk left, while Windows Explorer says I have 98.7 MB and My Computer makes it 99.7 MB. In MS-DOS, DIR /AH/S says 100,933,632. Which is correct? SCANDISK also says I have 40,960,000 bytes in 163 hidden files. Does this seem excessive? If so what should I do about it? DIR /AH/S says 39 files, 11 directories and 2,788,764 bytes (in hidden files)?

Q I have a problem with the Windows 95 Taskbar which slips to the right hand side of the screen and is 2 inches wide. I drag the edge to reduce the size but next time it does it again. □

Over to You

Please contact me if you have any comments on the answers given; can provide a reply for the unanswered questions; or if you cannot attend the monthly meeting and would like a question asked and included in this column.

To contact me: write to me care of the office; leave a message on the BBS or telephone me on (03) 9270 6115 BH (03) 9857 5567 AH or e-mail me at jswale@melbpc.org.au

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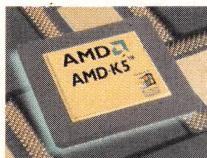
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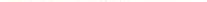
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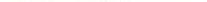
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